

ROUND SQUARE NEWS

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www.roundsquare.org

Round Square International Conference 2014

Beginning at the end of this month The Sanskaar Valley School, Bhopal, India and King's Academy, Madaba, Jordan will jointly be hosting the Round Square International Conference.

The conference begins at Sanskaar Valley School from 28th Sept to 4th Oct 2014 with the theme: "We may not have it all together but together we have it all". Students will be inspired to turn inspiration into action for a common future and will explore the need to share value of common resources.

<http://www.rsic2014tsvs.org>

At the King's Academy from 7th to 13th Oct 2014 the theme is "Al Salamu Alaikum" or "Peace Be With You".

The conference logo is the olive tree, a symbol of peace in the region, and the conference aims to celebrate differences and encourage its young delegates to grow stronger through appreciating and applying their collective wisdom.

<http://www.kingsacademy.edu.jo/rsic-2014/>

If you can keep your cool...

Sabah al kheir! (Good morning) As I utter these words, on entering the Round Square office, there is a muted reply acknowledging my greeting that belies the maelstrom that circulates beneath the surface. This is the nerve centre where the "our ess eye see for tea'n" crew is beavering away. As with beavers most of the work is rarely seen, until the final stages of the dam construction and this is the case here. Few words are uttered as the six workers in 20 square meters of space are fixed by the computer monitors that have become very much part of any modern day office. There is mother hen, Tessa, watching over us all and, from time to time she clucks a question needing an answer or a command needing an action. The ever resourceful office brood swings into action depending on who has the necessary expertise. The office brood is a right cosmopolitan bunch that truly mirrors the international nature of Round Square. There is Salwa, the Kiwi Jordanian, Gertrude more affectionately known as G the Malawian Yank, Ali the Jordanian Leprechaun, Khaila the Madabian and I the Swiss Scouser. All are watched over,



السلام عليكم
Al Salamu Alaikum

guided and noses kept to the grindstone by Tessa from the Rainbow nation and she is as colourful as her national flag since, depending on the need, she can don her South African, English and/or Scottish hat at a whim. So what is this eclectic mix of folk doing all crammed into such a small space? Hopefully it is preparing for the invasion, by the world, of King's Academy this coming October 2014. The team not only has to juggle time zones – when OZ sleeps, Europe is awake, when Jordan sleeps, US is awake and vice versa – but also different languages – English, as she is spoke, is sometimes not the same; crook for the Ozzies needs the quack/doctor but for the Brits they call the police to throw him/her into the clink.

One definitely needs a sense of humour to survive a conference preparation as well as a flexibility, of which a rubber band would be very jealous. It is hard work but extremely enjoyable, which is as oxymoronic as Round Square itself. King's Academy awaits the world invasion with relish and, despite what troubles the world is experiencing at present, knows that the conference theme of PEACE BE WITH YOU will be experienced by all that make the pilgrimage to this Levantine cradle of some of the world's major religions. Al Salamu Alaikum. *Tony Hyde*



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Of empty promises and true actions!

Written by student Syeda Rumana Mehdi who graduated this year. Lyceum School



What good are laments of war and songs of peace?
When this raging battle refuses to cease?

What good are a poet's emotional verses?
When the society is bound by unforgivable curses,

Ask a child how he feels,
When his father's corpse arrives on his tenth birthday,
Ask an Afghan refugee how he feels,
When the rotten food at the refugee camp reminds him of
freshly baked naans at home,
Ask a Pakistani girl how she feels,
When her school is burnt to the ground,
Ask yourself how you feel,
When you look at the bruised and bare feet of orphaned children,
When you look at those sunken eyeballs,
When you look at those skinny arms and legs,
When you look at those tattered clothes?

Look at those eyes filled with sorrow,
Eyes that have no hope of a bright tomorrow,
Eyes that well with tears at the sight of a Nepalese child,
Eyes that shed tears of blood at the sight of those scarred hands,
Eyes that look at those frail shoulders unable to carry so much weight,
Eyes that look like that of a sacrificial lamb who has succumbed to his fate,

It was eerily quiet,
She was alone, not another soul in sight,
The light was blindingly white,
The crimson drops on the white linen sheet were quite bright,
She shook with fright,
Would anyone ever listen to her plight?
What was this gloom?
Why cry over a flower that died before it had begun to bloom?
Why weep over an aborted female fetus, after all, girls only bring doom?

The thud of the spade startled the birds sleeping in their nest,
Underneath their tree, a body was being laid to rest,
A girl, whom her brothers had begun to detest,
So they simply did what they thought was best,
They stabbed her and called it honor killing,
Onto the marble floor, blood started spilling,

I tell stories like Scheherazade did,
I narrate the woe of a Bangladeshi girl forced into prostitution,
I unfold the tragedy of an Indian girl, who was raped,
I recite the story of the children of Maldives,
Whose lives are dependant on whiffs of drugs,
I recount the lives of the child soldiers of Sri Lanka,
Who are still in combat,
Fighting to forget the atrocities of war,
I describe the life of a child in Bhutan,
Whose only fault is that he is a minority in the country,
He cannot speak his regional language for fear of death,
He cannot follow traditions openly for fear of death,
Doesn't death sound like a relief in his case?
I wish I could meet Scheherazade,
Then I would show her my stories,
I would say,
Look at my stories glistening in red,
Look at my stories written in blood,
Look at my stories that show lone graves in idyllic valleys,
Look at my stories of children who die even before they learn to open their eyes,
Look at my stories full of gun shots, slaps, wails and death,

The curtains have parted to reveal the stage,
A stage with no props, only tear drops,
A stage that shows the rape of a three year old girl,
A stage that shows the glittering dowry of a ten year old bride,
A stage that shows the unmarked grave of a victim of honor killing,
A stage that shows mass graves, filled with skeletons of malnourished children,

This is not a war play.
This is not a stage.
This is a slideshow of reality.

Now is the time to act,
Now is the time to make an impact,
Now is the time to extend the hand of love and friendship to everyone,
Now is the time to discover the human inside you,
Now is the time to write a new ending for your tragic story,
Now is the time to rise back to your lost glory.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A great deal of progress has been made on a range of fronts since we last gathered at Saint Andrew's College, Florida.

Some of this progress has been occurring within the Regions, centred around the development of Regional Implementation Plans to support the Worldwide Strategic Plan. Regional Directors are looking forward to sharing, in some detail, key elements of these Regional Implementation Plans that have already been shared with Members in the individual regions, at the upcoming International Conferences.

The Worldwide Management Team has also developed an Implementation Plan, designed to support all Members in reaching their aspirations in line with our overall strategic objectives. This includes some exciting developments and forward planning around Projects, Conferences, Alumni and adult professional development opportunities. We are also looking forward to sharing these with Members at the Round Square International Conferences in India and Jordan.

Development of an entirely new, integrated and responsive website, including intranet, for Round Square

has begun and we will be in a position to share the 'wireframe' of this exciting initiative, allowing for final refinement in response to Members' needs, prior to the detailed construction which will allow for a launch in the first quarter of 2015. We understand how important a fully functional website is to Members, allowing effective communication, sharing of best practice and the development of common approaches and initiatives across the world and I am confident that we will be able to deliver on this objective in the New Year.

In addition, we are initiating some research development to craft a Round Square philosophical approach to teaching and learning. We have asked Round Square Board Member Mike Walker, Head of Felsted School, to lead the first stages of work in this area. He and others will share initial thoughts around this development, which I know is of great interest to a number of Member Schools, through presentation and discussion at one of the sessions for Heads at the upcoming RSIC's.

Planning for the Round Square International Conferences at The Sanskaar Valley School, Bhopal, India and King's Academy, Madaba, Jordan is

proceeding very well. Registrations are high and the vast majority of Schools will be represented at one of the two Conferences.

An important adult program has been developed and will be replicated across both Conferences. As the Annual General Meeting will be held electronically prior to the first International Conference, (paperwork will be sent to the Member Schools early in September), this will be replaced at each Conference by an open forum where ideas and initiatives will be shared, important business information explained and an opportunity for discussion provided.

I look forward to seeing many of you in India and Jordan in September and October respectively this year.

Roderick D Fraser

**Chairman
Round Square
Board of
Trustees**



ROUND SQUARE WORLDWIDE MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

A month in to the new financial year, the RS Worldwide Team is off to a flying start implementing initiatives arising from last year's Strategic planning process.

Many of these are summarised in the Chairman's report above, and progress will be shared in more detail at the RSICs, where we hope to again gather your input and feedback, as well as engagement of the student body in planning and developing some of our key initiatives.

Before the end of our financial year, July saw Round Square's three International Service Projects filled to capacity, and all completed smoothly (see overleaf for more information).

During August, our focus has turned to the Audit in preparation for the AGM in October. Annual Affirmation Forms have been sent out with a reminder to submit your school's return by FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER. Please make sure that we have your form as soon as possible and ahead of this date so that we can compile the figures for the start of the RSIC at Sanskaar that weekend.

In addition, each Regional Director has circulated to all member schools in his region a form to complete in relation to the Regional Implementation Plan. Please ensure that you complete and return this promptly as well, as many of the topics that we will address together at the RSIC will arise from your responses to these forms.

Also at the conference this year, we will turning some attention to Social Media and our plans for developing a digital communications function within the Round Square team. In addition, we will be seeking delegates' input and feedback on a planned programme of training and professional development opportunities that will be rolled out throughout the coming year.

Finally, as usual we will be taking the opportunity at the conference to share examples of some of the excellent initiatives being undertaken by member schools around the world. Presentations will include topics as diverse as leadership development, RS in primary-years and

some approaches to integrating RS into the curriculum."

Only three or four weeks to go until we all get to meet up again and shape the next stages of Round Square's evolution - I for one can't wait!

Rachael Westgarth

Director of Strategy & Operations



A week underwater, a classroom in the sea

In April, as part of the Grade 9 Outdoor Education Adventure programme, 33 Grade 9 students and six staff from both campuses participated in a dive expedition to the Gili Islands in Lombok, Indonesia.

Cultural, environmental and social awareness was developed between serious bouts of experiential learning in the sea. Not without trepidation or anxiety, students dove into this thrilling experience with a deep breath, a buddy check and a final “ok” hand signal, back-rolling into the crystal clear waters of one of Indonesia’s richest and most diverse marine ecosystems.

After four challenging days of coursework, skills work and multiple dive practices, the newly certified divers were inspired to give something back to the local community. Students spent hours playing with local kids at the beach and explored the island on foot, discovering some hidden wonders on Gili Meno’s tropical paradise.

“I learned important life skills, such as trust and taking on responsibilities. Besides learning how to dive, I also learned how to work with people I have never met before. I made many new friends and really enjoyed the activities we did after diving. We socialised a lot and learned interesting facts about the island and the marine life. I left Lombok full of amazing memories and information.”

Livia Sgobbo, Grade 9

The newly-qualified divers then participated in a BioRock Reef Restoration project. The day began with a classroom session with the Gili Eco Trust’s co-founder, Delphine Robbe where students learned about the Trusts



conservation and protection work, which spans more than a decade. Delphine’s passion is for finding new ways to restore and prevent damage to the underwater world. There are now close to 100 successful artificial BioRock reefs around the Gili Islands.

Delphine provided an advanced lesson in Marine Biology, explaining the intricacies of coral reef ecosystems as well as the basics of BioRock structures and how they can restore damaged corals, promote new growth and protect reefs against rising water temperatures. That afternoon, the new divers applied their skills by carefully collecting six large baskets of broken pieces of coral from the popular Bounty Wreck dive site before heading over to the newest BioRock project on Manta Reef, a few meters offshore from Gili Trawangan. Concentration, patience and the use of fine motor skills underwater were not easy tasks for newly certified divers, but with patience and purpose, it proved to be very successful and rewarding.

The Gili Eco Trust’s vision is to help preserve and protect both the marine and terrestrial environments of the Gili Islands. Proper care for island animals, promoting green spaces, effective waste management, as well as patrolling and protecting the sea around the islands are top priorities. The visit of our Grade 9 students served to strengthen the existing ties that UWCSEA has with the Gili Eco Trust—a number of Grade 11 Project Week groups of from both campuses have visited, for several years recent graduates have also been offered Gap Year placements to support their work and there is a growing Middle School GC for the Gili Eco Trust on East Campus.



“All of the hard theory work leading up to the trip was worth it. ... Not only did I make some amazing friends, I came home as certified as both an open water diver and an adventure diver. On my first dive I was extremely nervous, but once I was in the ocean my fears vanished. Once we had completed our diving courses we were able to help save the coral reef. We collected damaged coral and we attached it to BioRocks. After exploring its wonders, it felt really good to give back to the ocean.”

India Bruhn, Grade 9

*by Aloni Cahusac
Middle School Maths and Science Teacher
East Campus, UWCSEA*

Scotch Oakburn College @ Young Round Square in South Africa

The first ever International Young Round Square Conference for 12-13 year old students was held from 4-10 May at Camp Discovery, north of Pretoria, in South Africa. The event was attended by 250 students and 80 teachers from 55 schools that represented 18 countries from around the world.

Prior to the conference commencing we participated in a pre-conference tour, hosted by Penryn College. This was in the Mpumalanga province which is adjacent to the famous Kruger National Park. The focus of this first week was on the Adventure and Environment IDEALS with students experiencing the magnificent landscapes and wildlife that this part of the world has to offer.

After transferring to Camp Discovery the international feel of the conference was palpable. The program was packed full of activities including sleeping out under the stars, game drives, teambuilding activities, RSlympics, African drumming workshops, traditional Potjiekos cooking, constructing e-balls out of waste, making sandwiches for local schools, raft building, bush first-aid, endangered animals workshop, scavenger hunts, archery and making educational toys for disadvantaged schools.

A highlight was a day's excursion called "The Road to Democracy in South Africa". Students visited Pretoria, the seat of government, and were able to see the new statue of Nelson Mandela that was unveiled in December last year. We also visited Freedom Park and the Voortrekker Monument for different perspectives on the turbulent history that has resulted in the Free South Africa of 2014, a year that marks 20 years since the first free elections were held in South Africa. The major highlight for the Scotch Oakburn College delegation was a visit to the Rethabile Primary School in SteveBikoville where they presented the soccer team with a set of kit for them to play in. This kit was sponsored by the fundraising efforts of the SOC students leading up to the trip.

After twelve days and a very busy program the students involved can most certainly say they lived all of the IDEALS of Round Square and the manner in which they represented their school and their country was exceptional in every way.

**Stuart Walls, Round Square Representative
Scotch Oakburn College**



The Scotch Oakburn students pictured with the soccer team from the Rethabile Primary School. The new kit being worn by the team was sponsored as a result of the fundraising efforts of the visiting students.



Finnian Colley, Lachie Warren and Bradley Lawrence in front of the new Nelson Mandela statue which is situated in front of the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Hunger Lunch at Ballarat Grammar

You've worked a long day to support your family. You haven't drunk since yesterday. You gather your rations and prepare for the day's meal, a small serving of rice which must sustain not only yourself but your parents, wife and children for the next 24 hours. You are one of the lucky ones, many around you have already succumbed to disease and famine.

On Wednesday the 2nd of March, all Ballarat Grammar students from years 3 to 12 took part in a Round Square day with a difference. The usually gridlocked canteen closed its doors, the dining hall was shut everyone processed to beautiful weather on the oval for what was to be a starkly different dining experience.

Each student gathered in their house groups and requested their lunch, a simple serving of rice on a leaf of lettuce. There were a few lucky ones; two from each house represented the middle class and were given a schnitzel roll and drink, while one lucky member was waited on for a full 3 course meal at the high table in the middle of the oval. A gong sounded every 3.6 seconds to symbolize one death from famine, a constant reminder of the reality of the problem.

Wednesday's Hunger Lunch represented the inequality of the food distribution across the world. Our planet is an

unbalanced place and while the developed world sits back and feasts, 33% of the world starves. This unimaginable imbalance was represented tangibly for staff and students alike. Walking around the oval, many were annoyed by the lack of their usual midday meal, but because of this began to discuss the issue and grasped a real awareness of the problem. For the one percent with a three course feast, the experience was bittersweet, enjoying themselves but seeing the often invisible problem of global wealth distribution presented before their eyes.

While we have three meals a day, 800 million others suffer from malnutrition. And while it seems a huge task to fix, it may not be as far off as we imagine. We can strive to make this world hunger free. This was the true point of the day, to not only show the hardships of what people have to deal with every day but make the school community realize that we have an obligation to do something.

*Thomas Leadbetter and Matthew Hall
2014 Round Square Committee*



Manoj graduates from Regents International School Pattaya

Manoj Chapagain is an amazing young man from Nepal. He came to Regents International School Pattaya in 2009 (thanks to Peter Dalglish and Dr. Virachai Techavijit) as a shy Round Square scholar and has just graduated this June from Year 13 with an IB Diploma score of 35 points, a fantastic achievement of personal challenge and academic achievement. The best aspect of Manoj's learning journey since leaving his home community and rural school in Nepal has been his enthusiasm and passion to have a go at everything and consistently demonstrating high moral values and politeness to all those he meets and befriends. To Manoj, studying in an international school and with core values based upon the Round Square IDEALS has meant that everything has been an opportunity for him and a privilege to embrace and make the most of – which the rest of us often take for granted. He is the perfect role model for fellow students and educators to have in a school.

Having Manoj in the school allowed us to develop a community partnership with his old school in Nepal, something he was

very keen to establish. This was achieved through a social enterprise group called Project Nepal. The group managed to fund raise \$3400 and bought 7 computers and they went to visit the school with Manoj at the end of June. They stayed in his village for two nights and walked to the school. They played games and taught English to the school kids. It was fantastic to see students from Regents interacting with the kids. For Manoj, it almost felt like joining his two family together.

To achieve the Global Ambassador Award a young person is required to complete their targets and personal reflections across all 16 Identities but must also commit to continuing to support and stay connected with their school or community beyond graduation as a global citizen. Manoj has certainly done this and created a legacy that hopefully many younger students (and teachers) will follow and thrive from as they too challenge themselves to become global citizen learners and high achievers.



Kurt Hahn Sleep Out Challenge

The Ballarat Grammar School's Round Square Committee facilitated the Kurt Hahn Sleep Out Challenge. This challenge gave the students an insight into the hardships many people in our communities face day to day and also uphold the Kurt Hahn belief; that "There is more in us than we know if we could be made to see it; perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less."

The challenge started at 7:00pm at the Heinz Centre with a soup shelter style meal. A film was shown linked to the theme of the evening and students took part in activities to keep morale high. Students were required to bring their own bedding but all bedding items were donated and passed on directly to the people who needed them the most.

When the time came to settle down for sleep, the aim was to make it as close to real life scenarios. Students created their own shelter and bedding from the recycled resources provided. Another real life theme that was experienced was broken sleep patterns. Like transient life on the streets the students had to move locations in the night and resettle with their possessions again and sleep. In the morning they shared in a pancake breakfast.

The event included a min. sponsorship fee of \$15.00 per student and all proceeds went directly to Anglicare Ballarat.

To KwaZulu-Natal With Love

"The Uthando Doll Project is a great service because you get to learn new sewing skills as well as help support children in South Africa. We hope that all the love and care that goes into making a doll is passed on to the child that receives it." says Student Kathryn Chan.

What a fitting sentiment as Uthando is the isiZulu word for love. The Uthando Project was launched in 2004 by Dr. Julie Stone, an Australian psychiatrist who witnessed the plight of the children in the KwaZulu-Natal region due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Playing with the dolls helps the children to develop physically, intellectually and socially, and to express their grief and loss.

The service was an initiative of student Jeremy Man Ho Pui, now in Grade 8, after being inspired to action while attending the 2013 Junior Round Square Conference in Bunbury, Western Australia. An activity at the conference, "gave me an exposure to the organization ... and what their motivation was. Inspired by what I had experienced, I worked with the MS Round Square Committee to bring the project back to UWCSEA as a service activity as it fit perfectly into the service aspect of the Round Square IDEALS."

Uthando encourages the design of dolls which reflect the child's appearance and culture. Through making the dolls, the

students now have a greater awareness of a different culture as well as finding a creative outlet. UWCSEA Dover have successfully completed a year of the service and hope to ship 30 remarkable dolls - to KwaZulu-Natal with love.

Rose Geoghegan
Uthando Doll Service Supervisor



Tough Grammar Round Square Day at Ballarat Grammar



Wednesday the 21st of May brought around Term 2 Round Square Day in the Senior School. The focus was on the Ideal of Adventure and fostering team work amongst students.

"Tough Grammar" as it was nicknamed, was an obstacle course based on the globally run "Tough Mudder" and included such activities as a hay tunnel, commando crawl net, slippery slide and pyramid climb. Teams entered from each House were composed of a student from each year level and the ultimate goal was not to complete the course in the fastest amount of time, but to demonstrate comradery and friendship within these teams. As you could imagine, the course drew out a huge crowd, even the Junior School gathering to witness this new Round Square event on the Grammar calendar.

This proved greatly beneficial for the collaborative barbeque which raised \$1000 for the Cambodian Kids Foundation. A big thank-you goes to all the Round Square Committees members from yr.7-12 involved in this wonderful event. From manning the barbeque to helping on the course itself, another great demonstration of the teamwork theme.

Radford College report Round Square activities

With temperatures hitting a record low of MINUS 7.6 degrees this last week, the students and staff at Radford College eagerly await Spring and the warmer months. But possibly, for some students, warmer weather will be with them even sooner!

Eight Yr 10 students are busily preparing themselves for a Regional Service Project in Fiji (Sept/Oct); whilst another 3 are organizing Visas and plans for the upcoming International Conference in Bhopal. We look forward to later reporting on these events.

RSIS Project South Africa

Victoria D'Alton (our hugely energetic History teacher!) has recently returned from a RSIS project in South Africa. With never ending stories of the value of engagement in Service Projects, Vic proudly shares her photos & accounts of



new-found skills required for the building of school classrooms.

The work at Lwaleng School, Mpumalanga, has provided a much needed classroom for students who had their classes under the shade of a tree outside, because there wasn't enough room inside.... Vic is now working out ways that she is able to help realize the goal of a classroom for all children at the school through raising \$25,000!!!

With such energy and passion, I believe that Vic will see this dream take wings! Vic sums up her experience.. "This project really was the most positive, rewarding and fulfilling experience of my life. Its amazing how spending three weeks giving service to people who are in real need of support can totally change your perspective on life."



The Middle Years at Radford are currently enjoying the opportunity to host Year 8 students from Victoria, Queensland & Tasmania. This year our program provided exchange opportunity to some 31 students. As I write, students from Billanook are enjoying their final days at Radford. We hope that they have enjoyed their stay, & look forward to welcoming others later in Term 4.

Plans are also well underway for the Regional Young Round Square Conference to be held in October. This will be held at Birrigai in Namadgi National Park. Our student leaders look forward to welcoming Delegates from across the Region.

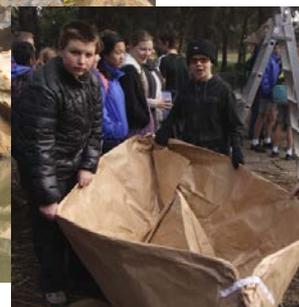
Winter Food Appeal

The Year 8 students continue their AngliCare Winter Food Appeal collection. With the ACT having the second highest incidence of Homelessness in Australia, this initiative serves to heighten of awareness of the needs of others and how we can best assist. Students are regularly making visits to Anglicare Food store to make donations.



Community Service

Our Yr 10 students are working hard at fulfilling their compulsory 20hrs of Community Service and our never-tiring Senior Students reflect upon the outstanding success of the Dirrum Dirrum Conference. With the theme "Be the Change" it was an amazing collective of inspirational & motivational speakers & activities. As part of the Conference agenda, the Year 8 students participated in a joint activity with St Francis Xavier College. Entitled "Beyond Boundaries", students gathered at the local lake, meeting others in what may be the start of new friendships & greater understanding of cultural norms and values.



Indigenous Perspectives Program

Fifteen students and three staff volunteers attended the first Indigenous Program offered to all Round Square Schools in the Australasia & SE Asia Region. These students from Korea, Singapore & several other Australian Schools joined together to learn and serve together in the Quandamooka Aboriginal Community on N. Stradbroke Island, QLD.

The students and staff combined to form an extraordinary team who engaged with the community through the professional leadership of Destination Dreaming, assisted by staff from Ballarat Grammar School, Ivanhoe Grammar School and St Paul's College, QLD.

The Round Square IDEALS were shared through interactive learning, as the team served the local primary school through assisting the literacy program & supporting the school food program. The students learnt about the environment, culture, arts, past and present challenges. Friends of Round Square (Aust) were able to provide four bursaries to students who would otherwise not afford it.

We hope this program will be offered in 2015 to continue the relationship now built between the Round Square Schools and this community. We hope to continue this program in 2015, if sufficient demand.

"I have learnt so much over the past week. How to interact better with children... about the political, social and family ways on the island, and how the Quandamooka people live. I have also learnt a lot about the past and the good and bad things in their history. The whole camp has been a highlight... I will never forget the time I have spent with these amazing people. This program was an experience of a lifetime and one I'll never forget."

Meg, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, 15

More recently we have also had a Night on Broadway raising over \$4000 featuring Alumni talent to raise funds for students to attend our Indigenous Program (see below)

Friends of Round Square (Australia)

<http://forsaust.org>



Night on Broadway

The "Night on Broadway", was the vision of Brenda Ludbrook – Producer, who with Carolyn Bennett – Director, Paula Robinson – Stage Manager and Jorden Heys – Musical Director, presented songs from contemporary musicals, featuring 20 young performers, many RS Alumni to a full house.

The night raised in excess of \$4000 for the Friends of Round Square (Aust) for the ongoing program on N.Stradbroke Island, the land of the Quandamooka people (see Indigenous Perspectives Program above). This night has ensured eight bursaries for students for this program in 2015 and beyond.

Many thanks to Brenda, Carolyn Jorden and Paula and all performers volunteering their services. To Stephen Higgs & Ballarat Grammar School for kindly providing the wonderful venue and all those who came, including our Founding



Chair, Susan Patterson & students from the project who helped selling programs. This night was an amazing collaboration between, talented Alumni who loved their

time with Round Square and want to stay involved & give back with their talent, to a really worthy cause. Bravo – to all involved !

International Food Evening at Roedean School

The Interact Club at Roedean hosts an annual International Food Evening at which girls and parents have the opportunity to taste food and watch entertainment from a variety of countries.

Each group of girls representing a country dress in their country's traditional clothes, decorate their stalls, provide a starter and dessert and an item of entertainment. The school community buys tickets to attend the evening.

This year our theme was 'Christmas in July' and the hall was decorated accordingly – complete with stockings and a Christmas tree. Nine countries were represented and over two hundred people attended. The entertainment was exceptional with dances, songs and poetry from India to Mexico, as well as performances by our choir and other talented students.

This food evening is truly representative of the Round Square IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Leadership and Service. Girls both in the groups, and those who attend, are given the



opportunity to experience a new culture and all it has to offer. The groups are encouraged to work democratically to organise their stall & performance. Interact is all about leadership and

service, as it is run by a committee of year 11 girls, with all proceeds going to the organisations with which we run service partnerships.

Paula Chappel

Visible Learning Project

For the second consecutive year, the Grade 7 girls at St Stithians Girls' Preparatory, in Johannesburg, completed an independent research project. This project is modelled on international school curricula as well as the current South African Matric requirement. Each girl submitted a research proposal on a topic of her choice.

This year one of the requirements for the research project was to link it to at least one of the Round Square Ideals. This was done to make the ideals more visible to the girls.

Some of the girls chose Internationalism and explored topics such as the role of Facebook in linking people around the world and the success of international brands like Coke and Pepsi. Others chose Adventure and investigated what training and preparation is required to ascend Mount Kilimanjaro. While others focussed on Service and highlighted organisations that are working to assist people and animals in need. Environmental issues such as the negative and positive effects of recycling as well as the effect of oil spills on birds were also researched. Some girls chose Leadership and researched future developments in science like biomechanics and salt water purification. Democracy was also highlighted by girls that focussed on the inequalities in

education in South Africa as well as looking at political party manifestos and their delivery on their promises.

All these projects were viewed by the girls from lower grades within the school, as well as staff and parents. On the day of the exhibition, each girl was required to showcase her project and be able to talk to it and answer any questions from interested parties. The projects were of a very high standard and showcased the girls' personal representation of higher order thinking skills.



I am who I am today because of being a member of a Round Square school

My Round Square journey at OWLAG started in 2011 when I was one of the 6 students (Grade 9, now Grade 12) selected to attend the Africa Junior conference hosted by St George's Dioscan school in Namibia. This was the first conference that OWLAG attended as a member of Round Square as we had been observers the previous year. We all knew from the beginning that we were to come back to OWLAG and build our own Round Square community. In 2012, I was appointed as the Chair of the Round Square Committee and I have been Chair since then. Later in 2012, I was one of the 6 learners selected to attend the International conference hosted by Penryn College in Nelspruit. OWLAG was inducted as a Global Member school of Round Square at this conference and this was definitely a proud moment for the entire OWLAG community. It was also at this conference that I was presented with an opportunity to be an International exchange student.

In 2013, I was the first outgoing International Exchange student and I was afforded the opportunity to spend 2 months at Deerfield Academy (DA); a co-ed school in Massachusetts, USA. My trip to DA was great, life-changing and eye-opening. The time that I spent at DA changed the way I see things. I met boys, girls and adults that taught me a lot about friendship, the power of service, acceptance, love and community. This experience groomed me into becoming a better leader, classmate, sibling, daughter and member of the OWLAG community.

In 2014, I attended the Africa Regional Conference hosted by OWLAG, and I was one of the Baraza leaders.

Being Chair of Round Square was never about the position, it was a lifestyle. It has made me the person that I am today. I am who I am because of everyone that I have come across and worked with throughout my 2 years in office. Though my role in the Round Square committee from now on will be of an advisor and not Chair, I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given to not only serve the Round Square community but the OWLAG community at large.

Reflection on Exchange trip to Deerfield Academy

My trip to DA was filled with a lot of events, trips, fun times with friends and great moments I will never forget. But today, I would like to share with you a few things that are close to my heart.

DA does not have a uniform but has a dress code, which establishes a standard for acceptable attire. So the students

are allowed to dress in any way as long as they conform to the dress code specifications or requirements. So for my first day, I picked out my supposedly best outfit: my fudge uniform. And that included the green gloves and scarf. I was like Mam Langa on heritage day; I stood out. Many students looked at me like I was wearing animal skin and they seemed confused by my outfit. But I am glad I wore my uniform because at the end of the day, everybody knew that there was a new kid in the block, they wanted to know who she was and this helped me start up conversations some of the students.

In the classrooms, I introduced myself as Boitshoko Kalebe but I was known and still known, famously known if I must say so myself, as BT. The other students were given the opportunity to ask me questions about school or country. Most of the questions were appropriate and interesting, but some were silly and well funny. For example I was asked 'do you shop in Africa?' 'Is Argentina in South Africa?' From that day, I knew I was going to have an extraordinary experience at DA.

I was always busy; doing school assignments and projects, to watching TV with friends and working out in the gym. May I just say that at DA, if you do not work out or do a sport, you are part of the minority? For the first four weeks, I was part of the DA community service club. From helping students at the local elementary school I learnt a lot about the power of service and the importance of enlightening others about my country and continent. I knew that it was my duty to inform the kids that South Africa is not only about the Lion King and that we do not have lion feet lollipop because that is exactly what some of them thought. It was my duty to break the stereotypes that they had about South Africans, how we are supposed to look, speak and dress.

Speaking about co-curricular, I also joined instructional swimming where I had my own instructor for 2 and half weeks. I must say, I had a good instructor. Not because he was a ridiculously good looking boy from Spain, who happens to be a good water polo player and swimmer. He understood the art of teaching someone how to swim; teaching them how to trust themselves enough to let go of the fear of water so that they are willing and able to learn techniques that will insure that they are water safe. I am not a perfect swimmer as yet but I am water safe.

My involvement in some of the clubs at DA allowed me to make more friends and to build onto the friendships that I already had. It also gave me the opportunity to

explain to the students what OWLAG is really about. I was part of the Round Square Committee, the Deerfield International students' alliance and the Deerfield Black Students alliance (DBSA). At one of the DBSA, Abby Cacho (who is the chair of the DBSA) asked me a question. She said: 'BT, You come from a disadvantaged family and you are part of the minority (black student body) at Deerfield. How do you manage to always walk around with a smile that ignites the people around? How did you manage to fit in and to be known (for good reasons) by the entire student body at DA that mainly consists of rich kids?' I looked around, I didn't know how I was going to answer this question but after a while this is what I said: 'I did all of that through my positive attitude, my willingness to interact with everyone and my desire to make the best of this experience. Just because I come from an economically depressed family and community does not mean I should have a disadvantaged attitude.'

Most of the students now knew that OWLAG is a school that provides education to young South African girls that are academically talented, have leadership potential and come from disadvantaged families; the students did not feel sorry for me but they understood that we come from different parts of the world, not only geographically but economically as well.

When I came back from The States, I was faced with the question: 'How was it?' And this was my answer to most people (if not everyone) 'It was a great, life-changing and eye opening experience.' If you ask me again today, I will still say it was a 'great, life-changing and eye-opening experience' because that is exactly how it was. The 2 months and a few days that I spent at DA have truly changed my life and the way I perceive things. I met boys, girls and adults that taught me a lot about friendship, love and community. I know that I have changed (for the better) from the whole experience, and I am looking forward to using it to be a better student, leader, friend and member of the OWLAG community.

Boitshoko Kalebe, Senior/ Grade 12 learner at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, South Africa. Member of the Round Square committee since 2011 and graduating October 2014.



Trees for Zambia

“A life-changing experience for all of us”

During our half term break, we spent a week filled with tree-planting, painting at schools, growing permaculture gardens, creating micro-nurseries, building solar-cookers and eating lots of lentils. We were hosted at the Greenpop village in Livingstone, Zambia, and welcomed by an enthusiastic and friendly team of people.

We were not only given the opportunity to help the local people and counter the rapid rate of deforestation in Zambia, but were also able to bring home lessons that we are going to apply in our own households and communities. These are all valuable lessons about sustainable living and habits of a carbon neutral lifestyle.

We also got to broaden our network through meeting volunteers from all corners of the world and all walks of life, and will continue to stay in touch with them. Inspirational stories were shared around the camp fire, and the generous spirit of humanity was rekindled.

During the week that we were at the project we planted 2087 trees in total (#683 were planted during the entire 3 week project); this was realised by two large planting days at a plantation called “Sons of Thunder” and at the Livingstone Biogas Plantation. Most of the trees planted are food/fruit trees that the community could use as a source of nutrition, but we also planted a large number of indigenous trees.

When we weren't out in the community planting trees, Greenpop ensured that we remained entertained and full of spirit. They had entertaining evening activities with talent shows, movie nights and speaker evenings along with the offer of yoga sessions, a photography club and silent discussions.

Zambia is a beautiful country: we saw awesome sunrises and sunsets, a large baobab tree and the magnificent Victoria Falls. But Zambia also has the friendliest and most hospitable people.

“So grab a spade, my friend, and join the Treeevolution....” See you in Zambia next year.

Claudio Marangoni



St Cyprian's Environmental Week

The St Cyprian's Enviro Club ran a themed week aimed at raising awareness around environmental issues with themed days such as meat-free Monday, lights-off day and water awareness day. As well as this, activities included a paper drive (that brought in about 50 bags of recyclable paper), a clothing drive (in which over 1400 items of clothing were collected and packaged in order to be distributed to charities), and a seed planting in which the girls planted over 50 seeds. These seeds

will later be distributed to a school in Khayelitsha an informal township in Cape Town, and will be planted in their veggie garden.

The Environmental Chapel service on Friday (featuring a speaker from Greenpop) concluded a successful and memorable week for the Enviro Club!

*Anna du Plessis and Sam Hale
Student Leaders Environmental Club*



Clothes Drive



Paper Drive



Seed Planting

STGAWA! TAMAGAWA VISIT

On Thursday the 31 July St Cyprians school was visited by our Japanese friends from Tamagawa academy.

The day consisted of the Japanese students and their teachers arriving in the morning where they were greeted by a St Cyprians girl, Rebecca, who had visited Tamagawa on her Exchange and myself, the Head of Round Square.

The first activity that they participated in was a drumming workshop lead by our Head of music, Mr. Ross Johnson. This was a highly successful cultural experience that brought about lots of laughs and a new found enjoyment for Djembe drumming.

They were then taken to the school shop, on special request, where they all bought one or other part of the St Cyprians uniform. They thought it was beautiful and wanted to take some of it home with them. We have now combined the schools and it is called Stgawa!



After everyone had changed into their new St Cyprians jerseys they were taken on a tour of the school by the head of marketing. Here they visited on-going classes as well as all the facilities that St Cyprians has to offer.



Once they had finished their tour it was lunch time. During this time the Japanese students treated us to a presentation on social issues in their country such as gender inequality and HIV/AIDS. The whole presentation was done in brilliant English. All in all the day was a huge success. Even the winter sun was out to welcome our guests.



Community Service at St Stithians Girls' College

Whole School Community Service Day

During the second term we had a whole school community service day where girls were given the opportunity to serve. This service varied from a sports day with a neighbouring disadvantaged school, making sandwiches, packing lunch packs, making of lap trays, knitting of scarves and painting of the Paediatric ward at a local government hospital. All these activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all and it bettered the lives of a number of people.



67 Blankets for Mandela Day

As Girls' College we decided to take part in this wonderful opportunity to support Mandela Day. Girls were asked to knit blanket squares or ask their relatives to do so. This project was also part of our Whole School Community Service Day where girls were given the opportunity to do knitting as a group.

The knitted squares we sewn together in order to make blankets. As a school we collected 42 blankets which will be given to a church in the community and they will distribute it among the less fortunate.

Mrs Mariaan Botha



Kenyans in German!

The Round Square network of schools provides wonderful opportunities for inter-cultural experiences that relate to academic studies. For example, the chance for twelve of our students at Brookhouse School in Kenya to study the German language at its birth place, while mixing with native speakers and enjoying the German culture. Our host was the Landheim Schondorf School in Munich, where we spent three weeks at their Summer School German Language immersion classes.

The experience began as soon as we landed at Munich Airport with the signs all in German and the students were excited by the task that lay ahead. At Landheim Schondorf, a beautiful environment, warm hugs welcomed us and subsequent

days were to offer a clear picture of the German culture. The classes at the Summer School were conducted by the beach of the Ammersee and the views were spectacular. The environment stimulated learning and the lessons were in small groups of between 4-7 students, based on language level. The classes were complemented by exciting tours that allowed the students to put language skills to the test. Our students also enjoyed kayaking, surfing and swimming at the Ammersee. What a fantastic opportunity this trip turned out to be for the Brookhouse students to fully immerse themselves in the German Language and the culture of Germany. My grateful thanks to our wonderful hosts at Landheim Schondorf.



Elaraki 1st Model United Nations Conference

After taking part in many MUN Conferences in England, Turkey and Morocco, ELARAKI MUN Club students and advisers decided to take the initiative by living the experience of organizing the 1st ELARAKI MUN CONFERENCE from 29th Nov to 1st Dec, 2013. Five delegations honored our Conference; 3 delegations representing ELARAKI School, a delegation from Anisse school Casablanca, Morocco and the fifth delegation from Transylvania College, Romania.



Exchange

January was time for exchange. Wissal Baaziz a 10th Grade student of Elaraki hosted Isabella Mackenzie from Gordonstoun School in Scotland for 4 weeks. Isabella attended different classes of English, French, Arabic, Theatre and sport and participated in different solidarity activities. Besides, she visited the important places and monuments of Marrakesh and she had the opportunity to learn a lot about the Moroccan culture.

From Feb 14th to March 1st, it was Wissal's turn to be Isabella's guest at Gordonstoun School. Wissal had the chance to explore and know more about the Scottish history and culture.



Wissal Baaziz said: "I spent a great time with Isabella in Gordonstoun School, I have never imagined that one day I will live such an amazing experience."

Chocolate Thursday

What a roaring success

The RSIS St Cyprians delegates hold an annual bake sale (dubbed Chocolate Thursday) to raise funds for the Prince Alexander fund. This year past and future delegates lent their expertise in baking to donate goods for the bake sale. The generosity of the girls was overwhelming. We had home made millionaire fudge, sponge cake, chocolate dipped strawberries, brownies and more delicious tasting treats. The aim of this bake sale is to raise money to donate to the Prince Alexander fund. The money raised is contributed towards buying the building material for the RSIS project and this year we raised over R1400.



Elaraki Solidarity Club

To instill and reinforce the principle and the concept of solidarity into the students, Elaraki School solidarity club also managed to help Ighalen School of Tighdwine; an underprivileged school in the rural area of Marrakech; to open up to the urbanization.

The students, in collaboration with Ermitage School from France and with the guidance of their supervisors, helped constructing stairways to facilitate the access to school for pupils.



Within the context of sensitizing the students to environmental care and community service, the students ended



the project with cleaning the school yard and planting trees and flowers to embellish the place.

First International Festival of Theatre

Elaraki Scharakiool students decided to live another new experience by organizing the 1st International Festival of Theatre. Elaraki Junior high school and high school students participated with 2 plays. The first play was in English and it retold an old story from the oral Amazigh heritage. The second play was a comic drama in Arabic language.

Besides, the drama students of Milton Abbey School from England participated with a piece of drama which explored the horrors Ishmael Beah went through as a child soldier in Sierra Leone and how he managed to rebuild his life afterwards.



Incoming Exchanges

Term 3 of our 2014 year, St Cyprian's has welcomed four exchanges. Kristy Chipping (Pembroke in Australia) and Gauri Sood (The Lawrence School in India) who will be with us for our whole third term and Madeliene Dithmer (Herlufsholm in Denmark) and Siyi Wang (Kings Academy in Jordan) who will be with us for about the first two weeks of our third term.

After speaking to all of the girls, it is safe to say that they are extremely excited for their exchange experience in Cape Town and are especially looking forward to experiencing a completely different culture to what they are used to and having the opportunity to make friends from another part of the world.

St Cyprian's being a day and boarding school, the girls will be spending their weeks here in the boarding house where they will have the chance to make better friendships with the other boarders and will have the opportunity to stay with their host families on

weekends to give them a chance to fully explore and experience Cape Town and maybe even a bit more of South Africa if they are lucky. So far we have taken our four exchange students on a wonderful Safari weekend where they got to experience seeing some wild African animals. St Cyprian's ensures that all our incoming exchange students experience St Cyprian's exactly as a full time St Cyprian's student would so we encourage the girls to take part in extracurricular activities such as clubs and/or sport. We are happy to have one of our exchanges, Kristy from Australia, playing for our Netball first team.

We are very excited for our exchange students' time here in Cape Town at St Cyprian's and to hopefully experience some of their memorable moments with them.



Safari weekend - From left: Kristy Chipping, Madeliene Dithmer, Siyi Wang, Gauri Sood

Group Exchange pilot project

The European region decided to pilot a project with group exchanges. Currently one is running between L'Ermitage and Herlufsholm and Herlufsholm and Abbotsholme.

The goal of the exchanges are to cater to a shorter exchange for students who might not otherwise be ready for the experience, by ensuring they have a teacher and students with them for support. At this time, a group from Herlufsholm has visited Abbotsholme – and L'Ermitage has visited Herlufsholm. The evaluations so far are very positive. Here is a taste of one of the evaluations from the L'Ermitage group:

"This exchange with Herlufsholm was not only an opportunity to see a new place... but to love it. It was not only an opportunity to meet new people... but to get so close to them that saying goodbye was very, very hard."

"In this trip I got to see and experience Danish life. My host family, the Eligaards, really gave me an idea of what it feels like to live in Denmark. I got to try Danish food, desserts and a lot of candy (amazing candy). Also, I got to see much of Denmark in our outing to Copenhagen and to Næstved. I had the opportunity to visit Luisiana, a modern art museum, which I enjoyed very much. In addition to all these impressive places I went to, I also got to make great friends that to be honest... I miss already even though I saw them this morning. It was a short trip, but I bonded with each and one of them... It felt as if I had known them for a very long time."

"To conclude this reflection, I just want to thank everyone that made this trip what it was... INCREDIBLE. It is definitely an experience I will never forget and a country I will hopefully go back to soon."

In March three girls and I went on an Exchange trip to a school called Abbotsholme. We got to live with three families and one of us stayed at the school with a boarding student. It was really nice to travel as a small group because then we had each other.

We experienced a lot of nice things such as how it is to study at a British school, how it is to live in England, the culture, how it is to be a farmer, we went ice-skating with our host-girls and we went to "WE DAY" which is a giant event organized by "Free the Children" to motivate us to help the world and those in need. It was a really inspiring event.

It was nice to see how fast you can connect with new people for all over the country on such short time.

The school we went to is a boarding school just like Herlufsholm except they had students in the age of 3 to 18 years old. All of the students wore the same uniform. I learned a lot on this trip and I will totally recommend to anyone who gets the opportunity to go on an exchange to do it.

Caroline Sigsgaard Petersen, Student



HERLUFSHOLM



ermitage
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FRANCE



Abbotsholme School
every moment matters

Hackley exchanges with Tamagawa Gakuen

“From the breathless sight of Tokyo on top of the Tokyo Tower to the morning exercise and dance of cute elementary students, Japan had lots to show. During my exchange program at Tamagawa Gakuen from June 9th to July 4th, I experienced a whole new culture and developed some unforgettable friendships with the other exchange and local students at Tamagawa.

There were total of nine exchange students from other parts of the United States, including California, and Florida and from Singapore and Taiwan.

Throughout the month, we were able to participate in a number of activities such as Taiko, the Japanese drumming and tea ceremony, where we had a chance to learn the formal procedure to make green tea, Matcha. Japanese school life exposed all of us to experience the atmosphere and daily life of the local students.

Everyday there was the long ride to school on the train, and the train would be the meeting place for most of the students to start their school days. Without this opportunity, never in my life would I experience what it would be like to be a Japanese student. Every second was a memory and everyday was an experience to expose myself to the Japanese culture.”

Walter Johnson, Hackley’s Headmaster, also made the trip to Tokyo. He writes, “With the help of Koichi Itoh ‘59 as Hackley’s ambassador to Tamagawa Gakuen, my wife, Tracey, and I visited on Thursday, July 10th, and had an enlightening tour of their programs from Pre-K through high school. Our host for the tour was Hiromichi Yamanaka,



the Round Square Representative for Tamagawa, who was responsible for arrangements supporting our exchange student this summer, Irene. Tamagawa’s educational programs were as inspiring as the infectious enthusiasm of their students, eager to try their English on us as visitors. From unicycling Kindergartners, to students growing plants and cooking food, to future architects digging a foundation for an imagined building, all seemed engaged and having fun. We heard a Middle School chorus singing with a power and coordinated beauty one would associate only with older groups.

Our visit culminated with a conversation with Yoshiaki Obara, the President and CEO of Tamagawa Gakuen and Tamagawa University, in which we discussed the prospects for deepening and extending our exchange programs. Tamagawa is a school strongly committed to global education, and one whose welcome to visitors was warm and encouraging. We look forward to reciprocating their kind hospitality when a group of their Middle School students visits Hackley on October 17th, and a Tamagawa student stays with us for several weeks in February.”

by Irene, a Hackley sophomore



Fountain Valley School of Colorado

In its first year as a regional member, Fountain Valley School of Colorado ran three successful exchanges in the spring, with Markham College in Peru and St. Stithian’s in South Africa. The incoming exchanges fully participated in the life of FVS as boarding students, varsity swim and soccer members, and in the global education program. Opportunities also included a Colorado ski weekend, riding with the Western team on the prairie, and various outdoor adventures with school families.



Outgoing FVS students loved the opportunities for service in South Africa and Peru as well as the warmth of host families and the freedoms of living off campus!

Fountain Valley School is looking forward to sending two GAP year students abroad (Anglo Colombiano and Ballarat in Australia), attending the regional conference in Colombia in April, and doubling the number of exchanges in the spring.

Thank you, Round Square, for a wonderful first year!



Lower Canada College Goes Green

Water pollution is now a large problem. There are piles of garbage floating in the ocean and many animals, as well as humans suffer from it. The MS Green Team at Lower Canada College, Quebec were able to take part in an amazing initiative called The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

During this activity, the MS Green Team as well as other students went around the Lachine Canal next to the Atwater market and cleaned up all the trash close to the shores.

The environment is extremely polluted by gas emissions produced by cars. On April 25th, the Middle School Pride Environment committee went out to give tickets to parents who left their engines on while waiting for their kids. Leaving the engine on is awful for the environment as it wastes a lot of gas. Did you know that 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine!? It also degrades air quality and global warming.

The Environment committee went around

and handed out tickets to anyone who was idling and told them to turn off their engine. Turning off your engine is a win-win situation!

On May 19th, the MS Green Committee started a new initiative. Lights out lunch first started out as an activity that was part of a bigger event, Green Week.



Madagascar in My Heart

Lower Canada College has been fundraising for the last two years for Madagascar in My Heart

<http://mada.inmyheart.org>

Madagascar in My Heart is an initiative started a few years ago by Lisa Gustinelli a teacher at St. Andrew's School in Florida. Her mission is to bring technology to the youth of Madagascar, helping them to learn skills needed to become life-long learners. The money donated to her cause helps fund the educational programs, as well as the construction of desks and chairs. All the computers and software are donated and shipped to Madagascar.

They have sent 1500\$ during those two years as well as collect computers that can be used to enhance the education of youth in Madagascar.

They had a visit from Lisa Gustinelli and she gave a talk to the students.



The Lawrence School Term Activities

The Lawrence School, Sanawar students returned to School after a five week holiday on the 25th July 2014. With the monsoons at the peak, the students got down to their energetic selves to contribute to the right cause.

The scheduled events: a visit to the Children's Home at Subathu and Tree Plantation in the vicinity, the kids with the pick axes and shovels put on their best smiles set off to bring a smile on others faces.

The students are on with preparation for their Founder's Day along with Soccer happening for the Houses and later into the Inter School Soccer Tournament.



Students ready to leave with bird houses and saplings for plantation



In action with their pick axes

Hoping a bird will find this colourful shelter in these rains



Learning beyond the classroom

For most students these days, education is nothing but a torturous experience within the four walls of the class room, ending temporarily when the school closes and revived with great effort when school resumes. Not so at Trivandrum international School where learning is for life, and there is never a break in gaining learning.

In May 6 young students from Trins, all from Grade 7, boarded the flight to Johannesburg to attend the Young Round Square conference, which was the start of a new kind of learning experience for them. Joining the 250 delegates from all over the world, these adventurous learners, escorted by the Principal, Ms. Rupa Sen, not only learnt about ecological footprints, sustainable development, and saving the environment, but also how to work in a team with people from different cultures and nationalities.

The conference hosted by Dainfern College at Camp Discovery, a 270 hectare game reserve, situated 60 km. north of Pretoria, South Africa, with the theme, 'Endangered – End Anger

Everyday'- was a perfect blend of environmental education and enjoyment in the lap of Nature – a truly unique experience for youngsters who had thought of environmental issues as something encountered in the pages of a textbook!

The students attended sessions of stargazing by Vincent Nettman, and environment and sustainability workshops by Anri Landman. A service project was undertaken to provide sandwiches and educational toys to poor children. At the camp the children learnt how to make African catapults and rafts, African stew, archery, and African drumming, among other things. The guest for the closing ceremony was Michaela Mycroft, who educated the delegates regarding the Chaeli Foundation, and its work with disabled children. Sightseeing included visits to the Game Parks, Voortrekker Monument, Freedom Park, Lion Park, etc.

One lasting benefit the youngsters gained was developing leadership skills and how to work as a team, resolving differences among themselves for the sake of a common goal... a lesson that is difficult to find among the pages of a textbook, but once mastered, can be a lifelong asset.

The children returned after a week's stay in the camp. A loss of one week's vacation, some might say, but a gain of an enriching and unforgettable experience, according to the students, Anjali, Aparna, Diva, Uthara, Sheetal, and Shivani.



“VASUNDHARA” 2014-15 at VDJS

The Round Square pillar of Environment came centre stage at Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar which hosted a week long Science Conclave – VASUNDHARA 2014 (An Annual Series) from July 28- August 02, 2014. The theme of the Conclave was ‘Soil and Sustainability’.

The Principal, Nandita Sahu, said in her inaugural speech that the focus and imagination of young minds would blend together into scientific innovation and this spark of creativity would look for solutions to prevent further depletion of soil fertility while planning for its sustainability and regeneration. With this as a central theme of the Conclave, the School saw eminent professors from the Department of Soil Science, Haryana Agricultural University visiting and conducting workshops with students on the scientific understanding of soil and its conservation.

The conclave saw multiple interdisciplinary activities such as Clay Modeling depicting the applications of

soil, Quizzes and Dramas on improving soil fertility, sustainable utilization of land, tree plantation drives, Documentary Film Making on soil depletion and conservation, Innovative Model Making on reclamation of desert/marshy land, Power Point Presentations, Poster Designing on soil erosion and protection, screening short films on importance of soil, Essay Writing, Debates on the topic-“We have not inherited the earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed from our children”etc. The entire student community of over 800 girls from grade VI-XII took part in the activities which were carefully designed with an interdisciplinary approach.

The event was a resounding success and resulted in sensitizing students on the core issue of a sustainable environment where man and nature can exist in productive harmony to fulfill a civic responsibility to pass the legacy of this planet to our future generations.



Round Square activities at TRINS

Trivandrum International School is thrilled to launch “Beacon of Hope”, a week-long project promoting social service, that will be inaugurated by the Right Honourable Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament on 29th August.

“Beacon of Hope” is an initiative which will involve as many as 12 schools from the South Asia and Gulf chapter of the organisation. Close to 100 students will be engaged in service activities in selected orphanages and Old Age Homes in and around Trivandrum. The project promises to enrich student experience while enlightening them, even as they help uplift the lives of the needy, a key objective of the Round Square programme.

Throughout the academic year, TRINS students have been busy, engaged in a variety of activities and initiatives aimed at promoting awareness of global issues while reinforcing the ideals of human endeavour - all of which uphold the Round Square ideals.

A Bake Sale organized by TRINS students was a runaway success, raising funds for charities like Dr Ambedkar Orphanage in Trivandrum. Earlier this year, staff and students came together for the Shangumugham “Clean Beach Project”. Their actions

inspired and motivated even onlookers to join in the clean-up process. Another ongoing enterprise adopted by the school is the contribution of medicines and essentials to palliative care organisations. Furthermore, the senior school students have adopted three nearby schools to partner in teaching engagements.

The Middle School students participated in the Young Round Square International conference in Johannesburg held in May this year, hosted by Dainfern College at Camp Discovery, a game preserve in Pretoria. They participated in events

and workshops geared to find solutions for sustainable development and consciousness towards the ecological footprint.

The students have worked enthusiastically and tirelessly to realize the aims and objectives of the Round Square programme, which is itself a prestigious global consortium of schools, who believe in training their children through practical and experiential learning outside the classroom, to understand the physical and social world around them.



RKK and the Round Square Service Pillar

Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School in Jodhpur since its affiliation to Round Square has been taking initiatives not to miss opportunities for participating in all RS events organized by various schools in our country. Our school also participated actively covering the Round Square pillars in the form of projects, activities, field visits, dramas, dance and quizzes.

In the month of July RKK's Round Square Pillar "Service to Mankind" was a great success where students donated stationery items, books biscuits and various toiletries, toys and other useful things to the orphans of Manav Vikas Kendra, Jodhpur. The service rendered by the students of class VII was overwhelming. They conveyed their gratitude to baijis and bhaiya jis of the school by serving them breakfast.

In another initiative taken under the pillar of service our budding Samaritans visited "Asha School" for disabled children and Mother Teressa orphanage. All students shared their joy and sorrows and spent quality time with them.

Another step contributing towards service was for our valiant soldiers, guarding our nation against all perils. Children made wonderful rakhis for the soldiers, expressing their reverence, gratitude and awe.



Hence it is aptly said, " when we give cheerfully and accept gratefully everyone is blessed"

Indeed the portals of RKK have over flown with the surge of compassion and benevolence.



Anania Shirakatsy Lyceum School in Skype talks

During a year we had different and interesting events! We organized Service, Adventure and International days in different part of Armenia. But the most remarkable was the skype-conversation in our school.

The 6th of April UNESCO announced as the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace. Such a decision is not accidental, because sport is an ambassador of peace, friendship and can unite people from all continents. In this regard, some of our students (12-13 years old) initiated to realize an on-line meeting with other students of RS schools. They would like to talk about sport, its role in their lives, its way of expression, etc. They would like to share their knowledge about different types of game, mainly football and find out what kind of sport students are mostly interested in and why.

So we wrote letters to all RS schools. The first answer came from Australia, New England Girl's School located in

Armidale. In 2 days there was organized the skype-conversation.

It is interesting that the theme of conversation was "football". Yes, the Australian girls were well aware of European football clubs. They were very intelligent and well informed about their achievements and the best players.

It is natural that before football discussion our Armenian students gave a little information about Armenia and its culture. They told them that Armenia was the first country in the world adopted Christianity as a state religion. Then students told about a number of famous medieval churches, definitely remembering Echmiadzin Monastery (the residence of Catholicos), The Holy Cross Church, architectural monuments of Ani and other famous places.

Unexpectedly football theme moved to another level. Australian children were interested in Armenia national kitchen. They even took a note of several recipes.

At the end of skype-conversation the participants expressed the wish to be continued such kind of "talks". So they exchanged e-mails and contacts.

The next on-line meeting was with students from Morocco. It was no less interesting than with Australia.

Conversations last a little time, but the friendship will be for centuries.

That good tradition is going to be continued...



Social Service Day 'We Care'

"Education is all about moving from darkness to light"

William Wordsworth

A good education not only makes a human being improve on his intellectual skills but also makes him more humane.

Keeping this in view, Sarala Birla Academy marks a day every year as Social Service Day. The objective of celebrating this day is to imbibe the young minds with social responsibilities. Service also happens to be an important component of the pillars of the Round Square IDEALS. This year on Saturday, 26th July 2014, Sarala Birla academy marked the Social Service Day with a number of programs organized by the Social Service club "WE CARE" in co-ordination with the "ROUND SQUARE" and the "IAYP" Committees.

We invited 115 children from the rural locality to our school campus. These children were in the age group of 5-13 years. All the students of Sarala Birla academy were in full flow to make their day a special one. The staff and students entertained them with games, songs and gifts, all of which were encompassed in an atmosphere of love, care and affection.

The young children, full of activeness and enthusiasm, received a warm welcome to our campus at 10:15 am. After being provided with the morning refreshment, a special Assembly was conducted to honour six students of the nearby government school for

their outstanding performance in the final examinations. It was followed by colouring competitions and games organized with the help of the Art and the Sports department. At the same time, campus cleaning and planting of saplings were taken care of by the "Eco and Science Club" students.

An array of food items that the Social Service Club collected through the "Joy of Giving" program were handed over to the RMV humanitarian Hospital, Bannerghatta, Bangalore, India.

Lunch was served to our guests by the "Cookery Club" members at 1:30pm. With the smile seen on the faces of those jubilant children, it seemed as if they had an enthralling experience. Thereafter, our Principal presented gift packets containing study materials to all the children. The jubilant young minds left the campus with expressions of joy on their faces and warm memories in their hearts. For the students of Sarala Birla academy, it was a learning lesson on life.

Pravesh Kumar, RS Representative Sarala Birla Academy, Bangalore, India



CGS support community partner

In mid July, during the month of Ramadan, Chittagong Grammar School students and Alumni volunteered to support our community partner JAAGO Foundation in a charity Iftar for 1400 students of inner-city slum schools run by the foundation in Chittagong and Dhaka. Our students worked with JAAGO volunteers to organize the event and CGS donated US\$2,500.00 from funds raised in their annual RS Charity Carnival in April.

Zia Golam Mohiuddin Round Square Representative



PINEGROVE SCHOOL ADVENTURE CONFERENCE

‘Determined, Dauntless and Daring’

Pinegrove School hosted the Adventure Conference for Young Round Square students from 9 - 13 June. Children from Fourteen Round Square Schools of the Region participated with full enthusiasm.

The participating schools were:

- Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar
- The Millennium School, Dubai
- The Emerald Heights' School, Indore
- The Assam Valley School, Assam
- The Sanskar Valley School, Bhopal
- The Daly College, Indore
- Yadavindra Public School, Patiala
- Punjab Public School, Nabha
- MNSS, Rai
- Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' School, Jodhpur
- The Indian School Al Ghubra, Sultanate of Oman
- The Trivandrum International School, Trivandrum
- Pinegrove School, Solan
- MGD, Jaipur

The conference started on the evening of 9th with a “Heart-warming” session wherein the children of all schools interacted in a brainstorming session and getting to know about each other. The following day early morning, a bird watching session was conducted and a group photograph was arranged after breakfast.

After the photography session the children and accompanying Staff moved into the auditorium for the Flag Ceremony and to witness and hear the presentation of the guest speaker Capt. Suresh Sharma who is a wildlife expert and has been doing wildlife photography for the National Geographic too. The students were enthralled by his presentation on “Snakes” and raised many curious questions on the same. A presentation was also given on “The ways of camping”.

After lunch, the students proceeded to “Queen of Hills” SHIMLA to their camp location at a picturesque site in Chail, HP along with their escorts. On route, they visited the Buddhist Monastery at Oachghat, Distt. Solan HP. The following two days were filled with fun-filled activities like rappelling, Burma Bridge, valley crossing, rock climbing, nature walk etc.

On the last day they visited the Institute of Advanced Studies at Shimla. The

famous Shimla Mall Road including Scandal Point, Lakkar Bazaar and Kufri as well. The students enjoyed the food and hospitality of the organisers and had many interesting incidents to narrate after coming back.

The campers came back to Pinegrove on the evening of 13th June '14 . The closing ceremony was conducted in the evening along with a grand dinner followed by a dance party. They were given mementos as a token of love and remembrance.

The exposure of camps was a first time experience for many. Hence, it turned out to be a good and adventurous learning experience for them. It was a fascinating learning experience for all students and staff involved wherein, the main essence of our theme “Determined, Dauntless and Daring” was covered.

The conference covered Five of the Six IDEALS very appropriately and adequately.

‘Internationalism’ was promoted through interaction, friendship and brotherhood being developed as children of schools from OMAN and DUBAI participated, ‘Democracy’ was promoted through the various activities and discussions, the exposure to and the importance of ‘Environment’ was adequately experienced in the lap of nature in the hills of Himachal Pradesh and so was ‘Adventure’ through living in the outdoors and participating in daring activities. The Groups activities provided opportunities for student ‘Leadership’ experience as well.

Overall the Conference was a grand success. We thank Round Square for the opportunity given to these young children many of whom had not ever slept in a tent nor even visited the hills which they did for the first time.

Capt Aj Singh
Headmaster and Executive Director
Pinegrove School



Collaborative Service Project 2014 @ Pathways World School, Aravali

The 6th Round Square Collaborative Service Project was hosted by Pathways World School, Aravali from 9th June-16th June, 2014. Students from The Millennium School, Dubai, Assam Valley School, Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, Genesis Global School, Noida and Pathways World School came together to build six toilets for girl students at the Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Badshahpur and two units at Primary Boys School, Badshahpur.

In addition, the access road to the Boys School was paved with the interlocking of bricks with a graduated incline so that rain water does not damage the road in future. The school premises were whitewashed and the general aesthetics of the school uplifted with attractive murals. Also, at the Girls School, an R.O (which the School had) was installed in a secure manner along with improving the water drinking station through tiling, making a trough, replacing taps and getting clean access to running water.

Day 1 kick started with a wakeup call at five and the delegates left for the Boys School. The uphill task of levelling the road with bricks and boulders and filling the gaps with sand commenced. Post breakfast patches of towering shrubs which had overgrown at the proposed sanitation site at Girls School were cleared. Evening again saw the delegates at the Boys School. Armed with paintbrushes, they whitewashed the outer walls of the School building.

Every afternoon they immersed in art session and from Day 1, worked on their clay murals. The delegates also enjoyed sport sessions in the morning when they returned from work.

The previous years' Round Square Service Project worksites were visited to acknowledge the work done in the past years. At the Water Conservation Project site, Lake Patauda, three trenches were dug to provide inlets for rain water into the Patauda Lake.

The last day of the Service Project was eased out with an early hike to Chandrashekhar farm. An insightful barazza session with the School Executive Director, Dr.Sarvesh Naidu marked the end of a truly enriching and memorable Round Square Collaborative Service Project.



Project at Kumbharghar in collaboration with DAIS Mumbai

Khumbharghar is a very beautiful and secure village. It is an excellent location as the DAIS work was well established in the village, and students were able to see work that had been done in the past, and see how the new room for the school and one house would add to that work.

With a team of only 17 students, two leaders, one security, and one DAIS staff member, we had a lot of work to do in very humid conditions. The work to be done on site was mixing concrete, making mud bricks weighing 11 kg each, and made manually by the team members. These bricks needed to be carried in a chain over the

distance of approximately 300m up a hill, this work took the most amount of people and time. We also had to move gravel and sand around 50m up to the site.

The team was never without work to be completed. By the end of the project the schoolhouse had one room (out of three) with doorframes and windows, and the same for the family house.

We were fortunate to have had DAIS already do the huge work of laying our foundations, however it was long days in the sun, which the students of RSIS did without complaint. The most satisfying job was laying the bricks that had been transported by hand to the top of the hill.



The VII Daly - Ermitage Eye Camp by Purva Agrawal, Round Square Prefect of the school

“If you knew what I know about the power of giving, you would not let a single meal pass without sharing it in some way.” – Buddha

The heads of the Daly, Indore and the Ermitage, France came up with this idea of having eye camp where the students of both the schools work together to make difference in the lives of needy. Each year the camp excels its own expectations by reaching new heights. It is the result of combined efforts of Choithram Netralya, both the school and the new partner NGO Aagaz.

Eye camp is student oriented project. In this project we get a chance to instruct and lead. The first challenge was to decide the venue and many factors have to be taken in consideration such as our target community, space, availability of different resources etc. This year we wanted to have eye camp in Azad Nagar and due to lack of secure public area, Mr. Sheikh Alim agreed to support us. He offered his own house to become the camp site. The second task was to select the Dalian team for which a panel of three students namely Ipsita Suarna, Purva Agarwal and Mili Kapadia was set up. The students had to undergo interview taken by the panel. The final team was prepared after analyzing each one of them on the basis of their qualities and past experiences. The team consisted of Aditya Vikram Singh, Aishwarya Madan, Gaurav Dayma, Avijeet Singh Chitrath Dixit, Ipsita Suvarna, Jaivrath Singh, Jasmer Singh, Josephine, Khanak Gupta, Mili Kapadia, Purva Agarwal, Shashank Sahay, Siddhartha Rungta, Tejaswar Singh and Viraj Govandani. All the exchange students also got a chance to be a part of it. The team was ready and the next major task was campaigning. The

response of the community completely depends on the way we campaign. So, we made sure that each and every part gets covered and the message is spread throughout, thus maximum could be benefited. After ten days of distributing and pasting pamphlets, talking to every possible person to spread the news, making announcements at the public squares and mosques, the campaigning came to an end. We even went to Choitram Netralya where we were trained about optometry and had a brief session on the eye healthcare.



On 15th February the Ermitage team arrived. There were twenty students accompanied by five teachers. This year we had the opportunity to work along Mr. Christopher Hunter, Head of Ermitage School who started this project. The whole team was on work from the very next day. We set up the camp and campaigned for the last time. In the evening we had Principal's dinner where we socialized and focused on learning everyone's name.

We had inauguration ceremony which was graced by the presence of the city mayor. With the long queue standing in the scorching heat, with the duties newly assigned to all of us our hearts were beating fast, the first hour was intense.

We gradually picked up and by lunch we could see the shine of hope in our eyes. We had broken the records for the first

day and were proven to be an effective team. We worked for another three days and did every possible thing to help the maximum. Our hard work paid us off at the end. We had broken all the records with the great margins. This was possible because of the support of extra optometrists, additional registration counter and true grit. This year we even came across two extreme cases. One of them was 12 year old girl, Sujatha, who was suffering from Anterior Staphylocoma, a rare disease of the eye. The statistics of the Eye Camp are as follows:

- 9159 Patients screened
- 8700+ Glasses distributed
- 325 Cataracts detected and 275 cataract surgeries performed
- 400 Antibiotics distributed

There was a cultural evening organized for the French students. We even went out for dinner and a shopping spree at the Mall. We enjoyed swimming in the evenings and played various games. As a part of cultural phase a trip to Mandu was organized which gave delegates a feel of Indian heritage and culture.

Eye camp is transformation. We not only help others but ourselves as well. It changes our perception about things and helps us in making our weaknesses our strengths. We learn teamwork, power of words and realize the importance of small things in our lives. It is a wonderful opportunity which school has offered us.



Vidya Devi Jindal School host service project

Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar hosted a Service Project (Phase-II) of South Asia & Gulf Region in collaboration with Friends of Round Square (FRS), India from April 28, 2014 to May 03, 2014.

42 students from six Round Square Schools namely The Daly College, The Sanskaar Valley School, The Punjab Public School, Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School and Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar enthusiastically participated in this service project.

In phase-I of the project, a block of four toilets for girl students were constructed in Government High School, Mayyar village, Hisar. This came as a sign of relief for 430 girl students of the school. In Phase-II of the Project, Government Secondary School, Model town, Hisar was chosen. Here too, the aim of the project was to construct a block of four toilets for girl students of Government Secondary School.



Everyday Earthday at DAIS: No paper cups ever!

At Dhirubhai Ambani International School, India (DAIS), we have always taken environmental stewardship seriously. Every year, the DAIS community extends its repertoire of environment-friendly activities. One such initiative, No Paper Cup Ever, was planned by the Year 11 students of Prakriti, an in-house student-driven environment club.

They conducted a survey with the school cafeteria staff and discovered that the school consumes in excess of 1000 cups per day!!!! This led them to take an average of 1000 cups a day which is 26,000 cups a month which translates to a whopping 3,12,000 cups a year!

In addition they also discovered that the wax coating the cups are lined with (to keep the paper from not becoming soggy) was a health hazard.

Ceramic mugs were purchased by the school and hand-painted by the art students. Each staff member's name was also painted on each mug, thus adding a personal touch and a feeling of ownership towards the mugs.

These mugs were distributed to all the teachers and staff by the primary Round Square students urging teachers to help save Mother Earth. Everyone received this with great applause and an assurance to continue the initiative with pride.



The British School supports the education of children in conflict ridden areas

The British School, New Delhi, joined the project as knowledge partners and education consultants with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Kashmir and Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust.

This project began in June 2013 for the development of training modules and share pedagogical resources with local school teachers in Jammu and Kashmir. The project is aimed at developing an Arts Integrated Curriculum for Jammu and Kashmir schools. The main task involves developing curriculum content and pedagogy for teacher training which focuses on art integrated learning and accessing different subjects like maths, science, history, language and geography, through the arts in the middle school or Grades 6-8. The training mode has been through residential camps for teacher trainers in Srinagar, Jammu and New Delhi (The British School campus).

The proposal for 2013 -2014 is for four interactions involving over 25 teachers of the British School and 60 local teachers. Resource material for the teachers to use in their classroom situations has been developed and has been used in the schools beyond the project period. The collaboration with the schools

system also proposes to encourage the Board of School Education in Kashmir to adapt these strategies to re-energize their school system and make lifelong learners relevant to the 21st century.

The most significant aspect of the project has been the impact of the training across 100 schools in conflict ridden areas, a moral imperative to support the education of children in these areas.



Budding Round Square Artists

Each year Chittagong Grammar School (CGS) holds an art competition to encourage budding RS artists. This year's theme was 'Breaking Boundaries'. The winning art piece was chosen from among 171 entries from 26 Round Square schools across the globe. It is the work of Shreya Parasrampur, 16 years, of Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls School.

Tied in 2nd place, Prachee Khatri, 13 years, Rajmata Krishna Kumari School and Marisa Ahmed, 13 years, Chittagong Grammar School.

In 4th place is Riva Kishanchandani, 14 years, DAIS and Lindsay Virgilio, 16 years, Athenian School. The winning entries will be used for a logo at our

upcoming conference, 'Breaking Boundaries'.

Winning entries will each receive 100 blank colour printed cards of their work. All others receive certificates for their participation.

Use the following link to view the winning entries:

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B2IDIZL_u_VVMlpTLVRaY0E5STg&usp=sharing

Use the following link to view all entries - https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B2IDIZL_u_VVZlhDdEhsRI9fLTQ&usp=sharing



Winner: Shreya Parasrampur



Tied 2nd: Prachee Khatri



Tied 2nd: Marisa Ahmed

Service at DAIS

The school had the opportunity of hosting the students of the NGO Advitya, where the DAIS students work with children afflicted with Cerebral Palsy.

The session was aimed at providing a fulfilling session of self-expression, both for the guest and the host students. Many activities were thus planned. Musical Chairs bonanza followed by Camp fire sessions where the stage was decorated as a campsite, highlighted by the warm fire displayed on the projector screen. The student's proceeded to play their ace in the hole as Mr. Tom made his dramatic entrance with two stories planned after countless amounts of time spent brainstorming. The first story involved immersing the Advityans into Macbeth, making them brew a 'magical potion' as the three (in such a situation, many) witches. Eventually, after that enthralling activity, Mr. Tom proceeded to telling the story of the wasps and the giant jam sandwich, his signature tale, which absolutely captivated the Advityan's undivided attention.



Reflection: The Advityan's happiness, carefreeness and kindness rubbed off on us all, leaving a feeling of innate satisfaction, which is seemingly undefinable and unobtainable in any other precinct. Seeing their smiling faces made all the students realize that it was certainly worth all the effort it took to get them there, it's almost as though it served as a reminder that despite the intense competition and academics we endure, we shouldn't stress and obsess over such trivialities of life and enjoy it regardless, after all, we are the lucky one.