Greetings! This is the first edition of the Greenwood High International School Quarterly Newsletter. We hope to bring to you an update of all that has happened in the first three months since school began on August 3, 2015. A lot has happened in the first quarter, as we will see. Once the new students settled in, and the old students readjusted themselves into their new forms and classes, everyone got very busy with the curriculum and activities. We began with India’s Independence Day and Environment Day in August, Teacher’s Day in September, and Hindi, Francophonie and Hispanic Day in October. The Model United Nations conference organized by the Greenwood High students was another huge achievement for the school, along with the various language and sporting events. And in October, Greenwood High students were enthralled by the British author Alan Gibbons, who had the audience in hysterics when he addressed them, and later gave the 7th graders writing tips in the writing workshop. Two of our young journalists also represented Greenwood High in a mock press conference organized by NiE ToI.

August 15, India’s Independence Day

The celebration of India’s 68th Independence Day commenced at Greenwood High with all the romp and gusto that rightly merits all Independence Day celebrations. Clear blue skies and a mellow wind washed over the excited student body that was attending the celebrations. A sight to behold, students were seated in their black blazers, facing the covered stage, where our Principal, Associate-Dean and Chief Guests were seated. The event began with a compelling speech, delivered by the chief guest Mr. Verma that emphasized the importance of love for country - an ideal that should be inculcated in all youth.

The event progressed with beautiful performances by students including a striking dance and a
melodious song that did manage to uncover a sense of patriotism within everyone present. When it was time for the event to come to a close, Mr. D’mello, our principal, delivered a truly moving speech upon duty and true-heartedness. We, the students, were reminded of the valiance, bravery and trueness of spirit that those who came before us have shown and left that day with true respect for our country and pride in its past ability to endure, its present to sustain and its dazzling future.

August 26, Environment Day

‘Plant a tree, save the planet’ was our goal for the Environment Day Program. The members of the Environment Club were guided by Ms. Swetha and Mr. Manjunath to ensure that this would raise awareness among the students to be conscious about the environment we live in and its needs.

I anchored the days’ events, and interacted with the chief guest, Ms. Kavita Sinha. Prashanth R. of grade 8 enlightened the gathering with some highlights about the need to save our environment. Aryan of grade 7 laid before us some interesting facts of our environment today.

Ms. Kavita, Ms. Arushie and Ms. Indukala planted seedlings to commemorate the day. Ms. Kavitha shared her thoughts on environment and guided us on ways to do our bit to save and protect the resources that we have. This was followed by a collage competition organized by the Environment Club to give the students a chance to share their views and thoughts about the environments, and form ideas to take care of it.

September 4, Teachers’ Day

September 4th 2015 was celebrated as Teacher’s Day, and the students did their best to make it a wonderful day for the teachers. The grade 12 students looked after the classes while the teachers enjoyed a pleasant tea. Then the students gave the teachers cards and roses to show their appreciation.
Finally, the students presented a cultural program with songs, amazing feats of yoga, gymnastics and dances. The students left school early, and the teachers enjoyed a special Teacher’s Day lunch

**September 9-11, Greenwood High MUN**

The 2015 inaugural Greenwood High MUN (GWHMUN) was a landmark for Greenwood’s MUN community. The entirely student-driven, student-organized three-day event from the 9th to the 11th of September became a forum for debate, deliberation and, ultimately, resolution. The GWHMUN had five UN committees- the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Security Council (UNSC), the Crisis Committee, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and of course, the dreaded Press.

The GWHMUN really established Greenwood High on the MUN circuit, providing many novice delegates, including myself, the opportunity to participate and evaluate a broad spectrum of real-time international issues, from LGBT Rights in the HRC to Millennium Goals in the ECOSOC.
The GWHMUN was really special, as it brought to the students an excellent experience in international diplomacy, and sparked an interest in current affairs. Most importantly, like every MUN should, this MUN taught us not only how countries come to peaceful compromises on the negotiation table, but how individuals can collaborate, contributing to bringing about a more secure, peaceful world.

It was an absolute privilege to be a part of Greenwood High Model United Nations 2015, a result of the diligence and hard work of our twelfth graders, who have set a high bar for the future organizers and delegates of the GWHMUN.

**October 14, Hindi Divas**

While, we do share a special connection with our mother tongue Hindi, it is rare that we celebrate the beauty of the language. We find it common and monotonous to celebrate. However, these were exactly the conventions which the Hindi students from grades 9 – 12 intended to break. The day started off with pomp and splendor as Ms. Kavita, our revered Associated Dean and Mr. D’mello, our respected principal were honored and welcomed with the traditional smear of turmeric and *kumkum*. After this, was the actual assembly with various speeches, poems and plays by the various students.
A particularly enjoyable act was that of the play which was performed by the eleventh graders which sent the audience into peals of laughter. The entire atmosphere was one of patriotism and reverence for the language. The hall looked especially decorative with posters persuading students to embrace their heritage. The assembly ended with an enthusiastic dance by students from Grade 12 on patriotic songs which were enjoyed by the audience. In entirety, Hindi Divas was a memorable and enjoyable day which each and every student will cherish.

October 9, Francophonie Day

On Friday, 9th October, the high school students of grades 9 to 12 came together to present a French Assembly to celebrate ‘La Journée de la Francophonie’ or ‘Francophonie Day’. Francophone is a word used to represent regions of the world where French is spoken. To celebrate the spirit of this language the students presented two largest Francophone regions of the world, namely, Africa and Canada.

There was an array of acts ranging from poetry recitation to dance performances through which they tried to present the essence of these two regions, something in which they succeeded benefit of the audience.
Celebrating ‘La Journée de la Francophonie’

More than the spoken word, however, the assembly was based on exploring the culture of French countries through music, dance and even interactive quizzes. It was truly, ‘A French Experience’!

October 27, Author Visit

The students of Greenwood High were enthralled to meet the English author Alan Gibbons. A huge round of applause was the only thing that could be heard as he entered the auditorium. The moment Mr. Gibbons began his lively and energetic but meaningful speech, the whole audience was instantaneously captured. He talked about his childhood and how he started writing books for his students. We all laughed out loud as he described funny incidents from his childhood. With anecdotes and little narrations from his life, he put a powerful message across: to be successful in any field, persistence and hard work is necessary. After his exciting and informative speech, the students asked him questions, which he patiently answered, and gave the students some tips on writing the perfect story.
Later in the day, Alan Gibbons conducted a workshop where the students wrote a short version on *Frankenstein* under his guidance. They also got a sneak peek of some of his stories which have not been released yet. The students discussed with him any problems they face while writing stories and he told them tricks and techniques he uses for similar problems.

![The Writing Workshop](image1.jpg)

Alan Gibbons’ visit to Greenwood High was truly a memorable one.

**October 30, Spanish Day**

*Día de Hispanidad* or Spanish Day was celebrated enthusiastically on 30th of October by the students who are part of the Modern Language department of Spanish. It was celebrated to enlighten us, the student fraternity about the various Spanish speaking countries, to promote prosperous linguistic heritage and cultural diversity, as well as encourage language learning in school.

The program laid importance on the seven Spanish speaking countries – Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, Peru, Argentina and Cuba. This program highlighted the various indigenous Spanish speaking countries and focused on their attributes such as the country’s popularized folklore. The Spanish students presented each of these countries by speaking in the native language ‘Spanish’. The audience was able to interpret the information presented by brochures that were handed out containing the information in English. There were videos shown to provide extra knowledge on the topic and allowed an enhanced learning experience. A medley of songs and dances were presented by the Spanish students such as Salsa and Flamenco.
The program ended with an appreciation by all who were a part of this learning experience, allowing intercultural understanding and providing the importance of knowing and respecting the Spanish language and culture.

**Oct 30, TOI NIE Mock Press Conference**

The NiE news makers meet held by TOI was an extremely informative and helpful one for enthusiastic and budding journalists. It was a press conference with Mr. R.K Misra as the guest of honor and he was presenting the topic of ‘Smart Cities, Is India ready for it?’ It began with a 45 minute introduction to the topic by Mr. R.K Misra. He started with explaining what Smart Cities are and why India needs them. He explained that the term “smart” doesn’t refer to technology but livability. This was followed by a small 45 minute press conference. This provided the students extremely valuable information and insight into the mind of the founder of the entire project as well as how a press conference works.

After this, the guest of honor left and a 1 hour presentation on the parts of a newspaper and how to write articles for the paper began. The latter was presented by a journalist herself and it covered the main points to keep in mind while writing an article which were the 5w’s and 1h (Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. Overall, the entire event was entertaining as well as informing and thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

**From the desk of the College Guidance Counselor**

Since August 2015, approximately 200 universities visited Greenwood High from USA, Canada, Europe, UK and Australia. Over 500 applications have gone out till date. The Associate Dean, Kavita Sinha and College Guidance Counselor, Priya Swamy personally met the Admissions Directors of Emory University, University of Chicago, Vanderbilt University and Rice University, and in another session the directors of University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University and Columbia University. All admissions directors emphasized the importance of high IB grades over AP exams, as also their relationship and value of the school counselor over private counselors. They were pleased to review our school SOP which focusses on early applications and academic importance afterwards. We have already received acceptances from Purdue University, Northeastern University, Indiana University Bloomington, Warwick University, Edinburgh University; many more are awaited. The College Guidance Counselor will have a parent-student briefing for grade 11 parents and students on **Wednesday, January 6** regarding details of the
colleague application process. All are requested to be present in the AV room and seated by 1.40pm. (This event is mentioned in the school diary).

Sports

Badminton

This tournament was held in TISB from 26th to 28th of August. This was a team event and it was quite exciting to win the finals. The Greenwood High team was awarded gold medal, and one player was crowned Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Football

The Under 18 Karnataka State Football team took place during the months of September and October 2015. Playing with 20 girls brought about a new understanding and love for the game. We had many downfalls, as many other teams do as well, but we overcame them as a unit. It taught us to be mentally and physically fit, be it when we have a game or even otherwise.

Basketball

On the 4th of September, the Greenwood High girls basketball team won the Under-14 Basketball tournament held at Whitefield Global School. In addition to winning, one of the players received the recognition of being the Most Valuable Player.
Greenwood High student achievers:

IGCSE overall India Topper: Pavan Kumar Chitta

IGCSE India topper in Computer Science: Guru Sarjith Senthil

Upcoming Events:

- Theatre Workshop
- Annie (a musical)
- First Summative
- Sports Gala

This newsletter has been compiled with the help of the following students:

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