

BVB Mehta Vidyalaya

International Cultural Exchange Programme



A Cultural Confluence

Providing students with an exposure to the confluence of cultures and traditions brought closer by the centrifugal forces of globalization is a prerequisite of education today. To present our students with such kaleidoscopic learning experience, we have launched an inter-national cultural exchange programme in October 2012. This programme has been successful both in terms of enthusiastic participation from our own students and the encouraging response it got from our partner schools abroad.

Conducted under the guidance of:

DR. (MRS.) ANJU TANDON
PRINCIPAL

MRS VIBHA KOHLI
VICE-PRINCIPAL

MRS. SHASHI BHARGAVA
HEAD MISTRESS

MRS. ARADHANA GAMBHIR
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



TEAM OF TEACHERS

Mrs. Aradhana Gambhir JAPAN

Ms. Saumya Nair UK

Mrs. Parinita Sengupta FRANCE

Mrs. Neelam Rani GERMANY

Mrs. Jasmin Nisha AUSTRALIA

Mrs. Ragini Srivastava ITALY

and

Mrs. Swati Gupta

INTRODUCTION

Active cultural exchange initiatives with prominent schools from **Australia, Japan, France, UK, Germany and Italy** have been initiated. Utilizing skype, facebook, emails and other web-based platforms, the students shared about each-other's lives, aspirations

and experiences. More direct and creative ways of exchanging cultural diaries and mascots were also deployed to share experiences beyond cultural divides. Not just students, but also teachers are gaining from such cross-

cultural dialogue with their counterparts. The students participated in cultural and educational events organized by various embassies and their cultural centres, besides direct interactions with foreign delegates.



The Team

The program, initiated under the able guidance of our Principal Dr. (Mrs.) Anju Tandon received ample encouragement and support from the Vice-Principal Mrs. Vibha Kohli and Head Mistress Mrs. Shashi Bhargava, Mrs. Aradhana Gambhir led the initiative and coordinated with a team of teachers – Ms. Saumya Nair, Mrs. Parinita Sengupta, Mrs. Neelam Rani, Mrs. Jasmin Nisha, Mrs. Ragini Srivastava and Mrs. Swati Gupta – who took charge of interactions with one country each.

Here is a brief country-wise description of activities undertaken under the cultural exchange programme:



JAPAN

Cultural exchange with Japan proved to be very successful with a series of meaningful interactions and events.

Our school arranged for the **interaction with Japanese delegates**. Prof. Yamaguchi Hiroichi, an eminent scholar of Economics and Gandhian thoughts in Japan interacted with some of our students at the India International Centre. Students discussed with him about culture, traditions of the two countries and learnt from him about the Japanese education system.



Students interacting with Prof. Yamaguchi Hiroichi of Japan



Three students of our school – Rudolph Dhingra, Akshit Tandon and G.S.S. Anila - were selected to visit Japan under the JENESIS program under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture. They undertook a 10-day trip to Tokyo in a fully sponsored program.





PAPER LANTERNS IN JAPAN

Preceding the students' visit to Japan, we invited Mr. Hajime Kataoka, a young scholar studying Hindi in Delhi University, who interacted with students and taught them basic conversational skills of **Japanese language**. He also explained them about public systems and other useful things about Japan which made our students' trip to Tokyo easier.



Bullet Train in Japan

Trip to Japan

The students visited Kumamoto, and Fukushima apart from Tokyo. They also did a short home stay to get a first-hand experience of the Japanese daily life. The trip included interaction with Japanese students, and visits to schools, museums and other tourists attractions.

Our students returned enriched from their Tokyo visit. We organized special session where they discussed their experience with other fellow students and the entire school community. Our school will promote such horizon-enhancing activities in future for the overall nurturing of the students.



A CHILD IN TOKYO IN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DRESS—KIMONO. PHOTO CLICKED BY OUR STUDENT



Learning and meeting people in Japan



TOKYO SKYSCRAPERS



Home stay in Japan



Delegation of Indian students in Tokyo



BVB STUDENTS AT THE TOKYO CASTLE



BVB students in Tokyo snowfall



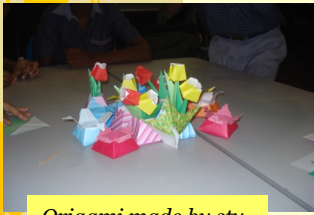
A visit to the volcano museum

ORIGAMI- The Paper Folding Art from Japan

Some of our students went to the Japan Foundation, New Delhi for an **Origami workshop**. They developed keen interest in the art and learnt it quickly. With some extra help after the workshop, they continued practising

Origami and acquired appreciable skill in this Japanese art. The school encouraged them to share this skill with other fellow students and we organized Origami sessions for other classes where these students went

and taught Origami to their friends. Now hundreds of students have learnt the art and have also developed deep appreciation.



Origami made by students



BVB Students with Origami teacher from Japan



Our students have also developed strong bonds with Japanese students through regular interaction on a **facebook group** called 'Students Cultural Exchange' created by us. Mr. Scot Mikuni, a teacher from the **Tenri Kyoko Gakuen High School** located in Nara Prefecture of Japan and his



MR. SCOT MIKUNI WITH HIS STU-



FACEBOOK group page for Students' Cultural Exchange

Japan Day 2013

On March 3 2013, the Japanese Embassy in India celebrated **60 years of India-Japan friendship**. Performances by cultural groups were organised in Siri Fort Auditorium, Asiad Village in South Delhi.

Students from our school's Japan exchange group along with Mrs. Aradhana Gambhir attended this event. Japan's Ambassador in India gave a detailed overview of the evolution of the Indo-Japanese relations. He shared his views with audience about the education system of Japan, the dance forms, types of Japanese music and instruments, calligraphy and paintings.



MRS. ARADHANA GAMBHIR IN THE JAPAN DAY CELEBRATION IN NEW DELHI,



Japan Day

United Kingdom

We have nurtured a very enriching partnership with UK's **Saint Ivo School of Cambridgeshire** over the last six months. Our students have forged strong bonds with the UK students through various means of online and offline interactions. The two schools exchanged **goodwill mascots** with each other, apart from exchange of letters and diaries by students to each other. The UK-based group also shared with us a documentary about their school. Many of our students have become pen-friends with the students of St. Ivo School.



OUR STUDENTS WITH THE MAS-COT SENT BY ST. IVO SCHOOL'S STUDENTS

*St. Ivo School of UK
received mascots
sent by our students*



Skype interaction:



**STUDENTS
SHOWING VARIOUS
PROJECTS
THROUGH
SKYPE**



*Skype session with UK students
underway*

Another important landmark of this exchange program was traversed when we successfully conducted our skype interaction session with St. Ivo School. Sitting across continents, some of our students could interact with their counterparts via internet.

Our students prepared short presentations on subjects like 'Our School', 'Delhi', 'Taj Mahal', 'Street Food' etc. Their presentations were received with excitement by the other side. The UK students offered us a sneak-peek into their daily life and

discussed about their school and studies. This interaction brought closer the young generation of two different time zones, two different cultures. The overall experience was very encouraging and we plan to take ahead this mode of cultural exchange in the near future.

UK Teacher's Visit

Elisa Kenton-Howells, the head of Religious Education and liason incharge in St. Ivo School visited our school on April 2, 2013. A very interesting interaction was organised for the teachers and students. Mrs. Elisa and her family were welcomed with Indian custom of *tilak*, multi-religious prayers and a welcome song. They were shown the school premises. They particularly appreciated wood and theatre-craft section, the special education department and the dance and music sections of the school. Students of the UK segment of the cultural exchange programme took special interest in interacting with them. The UK guests presented emblem and jacket from St. Ivo School.



Mrs. Elisa with the school staff



Traditional dance to welcome the delegates



UK delegation with students



Aradhana Gambhir

Visit Of Elisa Kenton Howells and her family on 2nd April 2013. They spent a day with us. Elisa is a teacher incharge of exchange programme of St. Ivo School, Cambridgeshire. We cherish the memory created by this event and look forward to more such visits from our partner schools.



Like · Comment · Follow post · 4 April at 23:46

3 people like this.

Seen by 10

Elisa Kenton-Howells Wow, you took so many photos! We had such a special day with you all. Thank you! When we got home this morning I played your school prayer and anthem CD that you gave me. It moved me in the same way as it did when we had the privilege of hearing it at your assembly. I had a lump in my throat to hear your choir and fought back the tears. I also love the sentiments behind it...unity in diversity and working together for the common good. Thank you all so much...looking forward to future projects and experiences together.

23 minutes ago · Like

On facebook, the delegates from UK appreciated the overwhelming response after their return.

Germany

Students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan were taken on a visit to the 'Indo German Urban Mela' organised at the Indraprastha Park, New Delhi from 27th Oct- 4th November, 2012. Teachers and students went to the mela to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Germany as a country and society. From various innovations in technology and management to other aspects of German life, the mela showcased vivid facets of the country.



France



FRENCH CUISINE

Students from class 10th undertook a **French cuisine cooking activity** which was conducted in the school's Home Science lab on 8th February 2013. Students were divided into 3 groups. Each group was asked to pick a French dish without eggs, wine or meat. Each group did exceptionally well and prepared the dishes in an hour.

Festivals of France



POWERPOINT
PRESENTATION
ABOUT
FESTIVALS OF
FRANCE

The students of class 9th made presentation in 5 groups on the topic 'Festivals of France'. It was held in the Computer Lab of the school under the guidance of the French teacher Ms. Maneet and our computer teachers Mrs. Neeraj Chhibber and Mrs Smita Malik on 19th October 2012, Friday.

Alliance Française

On November 9th 2012, members of the France exchange program were taken to **Alliance Française** to experience the way of life in France. Alliance Française is a renowned and reputed institution in Delhi for learning about France.

The visit to Alliance Française began with viewing of a short film in their auditorium named '**L'Ecole Pour Tous**' (in French, with English subtitles) which literally means '**school for all**'. After the movie, the students listened to a few songs (karaoke) with lyrics. The extensive and exclusive library of the institution was also seen by the students and teachers delegation. The library has a rich collection of audio, video and books ranging from comics to movies to songs and much more. Our students came back enriched and with greater awareness of French life and culture.





**AT ALLIANCE FRANCAISE,
NEW DELHI**



**BVB STUDENTS IN THE
ALLIANCE FRANCAISE
LIBRARY:**



Italy

Students from class 7th to 12th participated in the **Del Monte Quiz Italiano** organised at the Satya Sai Auditorium in New Delhi on December 14, 2012. The quiz had questions from historical, cultural and political aspects of Italy and students were asked to prepare in advance. This helped students to acquaint themselves with Italy better.



Exploring Avenues Ahead

Our endeavour through the cultural exchange program is to empower the students to traverse cultural boundaries through technology-enabled interactions. We aim to take these interactions further and hope to conduct group visits of students and teachers in various countries and conduct direct interactions. We shall soon expand the cultural exchange programme to other countries and regions of the world such as Latin America, the US, China, and Africa. We have also envisaged a summit of students from all our partner countries to be held in New Delhi in which a series of events and interactions could be organised under a particular theme for every year. We strive to evolve this initiative into a more profound and meaningful exchange among the upcoming generation of the global human community.



MRS. ARADHANA GAMBHIR
PGT, Psychology