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## Annual Day Celebrations!

*All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.*

-St. Francis of Assisi

On December 20, 2019 Grace Academy celebrated its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Programme. The theme of the programme was based on the gospel according to John 1:4, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men". Grace family wished to convey the importance of being a 'beacon of light' for others in today's world to the distinguished guests and parents through various presentations.

Mr. George Ivan Gregory Mann (MLA-BJP) graced the occasion with his presence. The principal Mr. Benjamin Newton committed the day into the Lord's hands by leading the gathering in prayer. He then introduced the chief guest Mr G.I.G Mann and welcomed

him. This was followed by an address by the Chairman (Grace Educational Society) Dr. Mohan Chacko.

The main event began with the nativity scene enacted by the primary school. The choir's innocent voices and the actors' cute faces won the hearts of the audience who were reminded of that glorious night. The Chrysalis Band presented a violin recital after which Daniel Sailo and Aditya Bora enthralled the audience with their beatboxing.

The highlight of the programme was the English Play *Sound of Music* staged by the Middle and Senior School. It was adapted from the 1965 film of the same name. The play staged by the middle and senior school. The play beautifully captured

the essence of being a guiding light in the lives of others. It was applauded by one and all. The school staff created an atmosphere of festivity through their rendition of the song 'Hear my song Lord'.

To celebrate the rich cultural heritage of our country the audience were taken on a quick trip to Rajasthan with the help of Middle and Senior School students who performed the Ghoomar dance on the folk song 'Maro assi kali ka lehongo'. They were then brought back to Uttarakhand with a Garhwali folk-dance on the folk-song 'Mero Pahada'. Both of these dances left everyone mesmerized.

To ring in the Christmas Season the school choir sang the carol 'Silent Night' and the Chrysalis Band played an instrumental Christmas medley.

In his speech the chief guest Mr Mann appreciated the efforts of the Grace family and congratulated them for the successful show.

Mrs. Sangeeta Ranjan (Primary School Superintendent) delivered the vote of thanks. In the end all the participants went on the stage once again and sang 'Feliz Navidad' wishing all a merry Christmas.

As the programme came to its conclusion a bright smile adorned the face of the attendees as they strived to become a beacon of light for others just as Christ is for us.

-Winifred Chopra

# HUMAN CHAIN

To curb the use of plastic, more than one lakh citizens of Dehradun made a 50-km long human chain to sensitize people of the harmful effects of plastic and to encourage people to give up the use of polythene bags. It was a great privilege for our school, GRACE ACADEMY, to take part in this historic event along with hundreds of other schools from all over Dehradun. Our school was allotted the position in front of Hotel MADHUBAN. The 50-km chain began from Miyanwala and concluded at Clock Tower, Paltan Bazaar after crossing Mussoorie Diversion, GMS Road and Saharanpur Road. Though they were fatigued, it was a splendid experience for the students. The cohort of students showed keenness and maintained the chain until they were allowed to return back to the school.

-Ayushmaan Chhetri



# ENGLISH DEBATE



The 4<sup>th</sup> Dr. David G. Fiol Inter-School English Debate Competition was held on 12th October 2019. The Master of Ceremonies was Samuel Rajan. The judges for the day were Mrs. Joyeeta Mukherjee, Mrs. Priya Chauhan and Mrs. Judy Chacko. The participating schools were St. Joseph's Academy, The Asian School, Convent of Jesus and Mary, PYDS Learning academy along with Grace Academy. The competition was held in two rounds, the first one being the Turncoat round where 4 out of 5 schools would qualify to the second round. The second round was the modern Cambridge format or the parliamentary form of debate. In this round, two schools debated against each other at a time. First, Grace Academy and St. Joseph's Academy debated on the topic: *The modern youth is becoming increasingly narcissistic* and then, Convent of Jesus and Mary and PYDS Learning academy debated on: *Responsible journalism is a thing of the past*. The overall winner of the debate was Convent of Jesus and Mary.

-Nandini Upadhyay

# HIKING

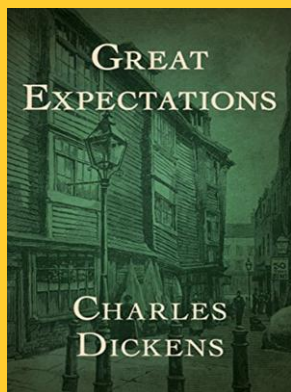
As a part of the Health and Physical Education (HPE), the school had organized an excursion comprising of treks and tramps along the exuberant mountains of Maldevta in the month of November, for the students of classes IX to XII. The sojourn was to give the students a taste of raw wilderness of the untouched forests in the lap of nature, just on the outskirts of the city of Dehradun. The students were accompanied by trained mountaineers as well as teachers from the school. The initial part of the trek was remarked as an 'uphill task' by most students and exhilarating for others. However, the humbling scenery each turn offered, left them all tongue-tied and overwhelmed. The trainers encouraged the students to introspect about their world views and principles through short mind-stirring sessions. All in all, it was an unparalleled exposure for the students; a learning experience beyond the four walls of the classroom...

-Divyanshi Garg



# Book Report

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS By Charles Dickens



The all-time classic, *Great Expectations* is written by renowned author Charles Dickens.

The story begins as the protagonist, Pip, a young orphan boy meets an escaped convict and through a single act of kindness changes the course of both their lives.

An acquaintance of Pip's older sister provides him with an opportunity to work as a companion for the rich and mysterious Miss Havisham. Here he meets Estella and falls head over heels in love.

His simple country life is now a source of embarrassment to him and he wishes to be refined enough to be worthy of Estella.

In a fortunate turn of events, Pip is informed that he is to receive a large fortune from an unknown benefactor and that he is to be transformed into a gentleman.

The story intensifies and Pip faces many new challenges. It is filled with plot twists and life changing decisions. As usual Dickens delivers what he promises as he cuts through the veils of society to reveal the bare bones of human nature. Overall, the book keeps the reader on edge, teaching the value of family and showing beauty in simplicity.

**-Vidushi Rawat**

## Interview

### "How was your experience working for Grace Chronicle and what is your advice to your juniors in the new board?"

"My time with Grace Chronicle has been more of a journey than a fulfilling experience. It felt like a long car ride (3 years to be exact) with no destination. Somewhere along the ride, I took Grace Chronicle as a burden but it has made me rediscover my passion for writing and the position of Editor in Chief has really helped me grasp the worth and work of each and every person involved whenever an edition was to be released. It is with full trust that I leave Grace Chronicle to the new Board and wish that it will be a journey never forgotten"

**- Maria Darngawn (Editor in Chief)**

"Being a part of the Grace Chronicle team and having the privilege to be the Editor in Chief has taught me a lot of values and helped me to grow as a person. I learned how to manage my time as well as how to prioritize and coordinate different things. I will forever be grateful to the school for giving me this opportunity. And I wish the best of luck to my juniors and hope they do exceedingly well and have a wonderful and enlightening experience"

**- Shaina Anand (Editor in Chief)**

"It was a wonderful experience - a great opportunity to showcase my caliber and strive constantly for improvement. I'd like to thank the Principal, Irene ma'am and my fellow members of the Chronicle for the amazing experience."

**- Pragya Sharma (Opinion Editor)**

"Working for Grace Chronicle was just marvelous! I came across the ideas and perspective of others and also working with people of different thoughts and personalities gave me ideas and qualitative analysis of how to deal with people and how to work as a group. To sum it up, it was phenomenal working in the Grace Chronicle and school in general."

**-Yashasvi Singh (Managing Editor)**

"I had a very pleasant experience working with Grace Chronicle as its News Editor. I learnt how to balance between studies and extracurricular activities. It was a very enlightening experience. My advice to the juniors is to give your articles on time."

**- Jonathan Livingston C (News Editor)**

"I met a lot of great people and my advice to juniors would be to have balance and stay true to yourself no matter what."

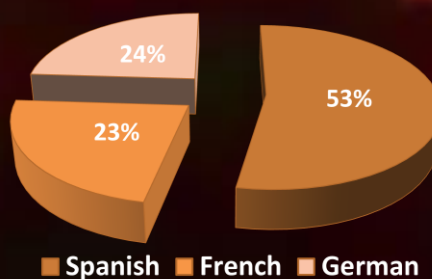
**- Samuel Rajan (Writer)**

"Working for Grace Chronicle was great. The work gave a feeling of a being a pro. My advice to the juniors is that it will only be a success if you all do it with your heart, mind and soul."

**- Nita Charlotte (Layout Editor)**

**-Riddhi Gupta**

## Poll



**In the coming years, which foreign language would you like to learn?**

**-Angela Rajeev**

**\*The survey was taken from students of classes 5-10.**



# THE 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPORTS DAY!

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Day (Primary School) was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mrs Helena Singh.

The students of classes KG, 1 and 2 welcomed the honorable guests and invitees with a joyful welcome parade. This was followed by an outstanding Opening March Past. Leading all the 4 Houses were the Primary School Captains, Akshat Jaiswal and Rupika Pradhan, who proudly carried the School Flag with the motto “Acquire Knowledge, Walk Worthy”. The little ones of Nursery class presented an energetic action song,

Athletes of classes 3 to 5 sprinted to bag the first position in the 200 meter track event. This was followed by some thrilling races

such as Bunny Race, Jalebi Race, Sack Race, Cycle Race, etc. which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A well-executed PT Drill was presented by the boys of classes 3 to 5, followed by a vibrant and colourful aerobic dance performed by the girls.

The most enjoyable part of the program was the ‘Staff vs Parents’ tug of war which was won by the parents.

The March Past Trophy was won by Sahas House who was given the first position followed by Sanyam House, Satya House and Sneha House.

The Athletic Cup went to Sahas House as well. At the end of the Meet, everyone rose as the Athletic Flag was lowered and the Chrysalis Band played ‘Abide with Me’.

-Sinchui Kamei

## Life at Grace..

-Shekinah Thouman



“ Don’t Shine so that Others can see You. Shine, so that through You, Others can see Him. ”

~C.S. Lewis~

# CHRISTMAS POEM

~ Kashish Sarah

*Christmas isn't just a day of a year,  
It is more than a season of joy and jubilation,  
Christmas is really God's pattern for living,  
To be followed all year by generously giving.*

*For the holiday season awakens good cheer,  
And draws us closer to those we hold dear.  
But as soon as the tinsel is stripped from the tree,  
The spirit of Christmas fades away silently,  
Into the background of daily routine,  
We're lost in the whirlwind of life's busy scene.*

*How soon we forget and the joy we forego,  
The blessings of serving people don't you know?  
For if we lived Christmas each day, as we should,  
And made it our aim to always do good,  
We'd find the lost key of living a meaningful life  
That comes not from getting, but generous giving.*

*Let's straighten our course like the Wise men from afar,  
Seeking the Christ child and following the star.  
Our gifts are service, not frankincense or myrrh or gold,  
Of following His example as we have been told,  
And we'd know the great joy and peace on this earth,  
Which was the real purpose for our Savior's birth.*

## Credits..

Editors-in-Chief: Freda Oommen, Kashish Sarah  
Managing Editor: Nandini Upadhyay  
News Editor: Vidushi Rawat  
Layout Editor: Divyanshi Garg  
Opinion Editors: Angela Rajeev, Riddhi Gupta

Writers: Ayushmaan Chhetri, Winifred Chopra, Evlyn Raj  
Cartoonist: Shekinah Thouman  
Recording Secretary: Sinchui Kamei  
Photographer: Shimon Joel  
Proof Reader: Mrs. Irene C. Khan