

**M**ind

**Mir**age

Celebrating Diversity

January, February and March Edition, 2024

# Editorial Foreword

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Greetings Readers!

As the vibrant hues of spring paint the landscape with renewed energy and vitality, we are reminded of the beauty found in diversity. The season marks not only the awakening of nature but also a celebration of the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and perspectives that enrich our school community.

In our magazine, aptly themed 'Celebrating Diversity,' we embrace the essence of spring as a metaphor for embracing differences. Just as flowers of different shapes, sizes, and colors bloom harmoniously in the garden, so too do our diverse backgrounds, experiences, and talents blend to create a vibrant and inclusive community.

This edition is more than special as it features articles penned by both students and teachers, offering a source of inspiration for all.

Embrace the diversity within these pages and let it inspire you. Wishing you delightful reading!

## **Editorial Team Members:**

Gaurav Samir Lotliker

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Special thanks to: Srijitha, Smitha and Siya.

# Hall of Fame

## Class of 3D bags the Achieve 3000 award

Class 3D has earned the prestigious Achieve3000 Award, marking a significant achievement in reading proficiency. Through their dedication to reading, these students read the most books, leading their class to first place in this competition. This outstanding performance also propelled JSS International School to the 10th position in reading across the UAE, as per the Achieve3000 platform. This accomplishment highlights the school's commitment to academic excellence and fostering a love for reading among its students.



As evident from their outstanding achievements, our multi-talented students shine brightly in every field, adding glory to our school's name. We take immense pride in their accolades and eagerly anticipate the even greater accomplishments that lie ahead. Well done!

# Hall of Fame

Adwitiya Sur, an exemplary student from class 8D, recently achieved a remarkable feat by securing the 2nd prize in the esteemed Madam Varkey Memorial Pitch Perfect Competition, hosted at GEMS Our Own High School.

The competition centered around the topic, 'Co-ed education is certainly more effective in today's era.' Adwitiya's presentation was not only compelling but also eloquently delivered in a concise 3-minute pitch. This accomplishment not only showcases Adwitiya's talent and dedication but also emphasizes the importance of embracing co-educational approaches in modern education.



On 22nd January, 2024 JSS International School participated in the GLS Tournament and they qualified for the quarterfinals by winning their match against the GEMS Legacy B squad.



“Aim for excellence in every endeavour”; it is through the pursuit of your best that you uncover the extraordinary within. This sentiment is beautifully exemplified by Jovinya Jayavel, a bright fourth-grade student. She clinched the gold in the 10th International Abacus Competition - Brain-O-Brain 2023. Jovinya, adept in Mental Abacus, demonstrates proficiency in handling numbers across various ranges using both the Abacus tool and mental calculations.



# Hall of Fame

6 Talented students participated in the Arabic Festival in GMA , 5 of them have won 6 trophies as follows:

- 1 Poem Writing - Aiman - Grade 7
- 2 Poem Writing - Ali. Fayyas - Grade 9
- 3 Arabic Calligraphy & Art Primary - Kadambari Malagali - Grade 3
- 4 Arabic calligraphy & Art Middle - Ananya Goyal - Grade 8
- 5 Arabic calligraphy & Art Senior - Dakshil Jain - Grade 9



Students participated in the 7th Arabic and Islamic Festival held at GEMS Modern Academy on January 20, 2024. The event featured a variety of competitions. In the junior category of the Elocution competition, Master Mohammed Irfan secured the 3rd position. Additionally, in the sub-junior category of Holy Quran recitation, Master Humayl Kunji from the Primary school claimed the 3rd position. Heartfelt congratulations to both!

# Hall of Fame

JSSIS bagged the overall trophy of Hindi Mahautsav which was held in GMA with over 13 schools participating.

The team consisted of 30 students, 3 teachers & 1 parent.

Below are the competitions and the positions secured:

1. Nukkar Naatak - First place
2. Chabutre par panchayat - First place
3. Debate - Second place
4. Samuhagaan - Third place.



Rudra Modi of Grade 1 C participated and won Gold in 25 Metres Freestyle swimming competition for the 7-year age group - boys. He completed the 25-meter lap in around 25 seconds and won the Gold Medal. The event was organised by Sama Academy in The Gardens - Dubai.



Ananya won 2nd Prize in Junior Level in Royal Spellbee Competition.



Our school bagged the third place at the Young Talent Music Competition.

# JSSIS Events

## Celebrating Diversity

The momentous gathering centered on 26th January with a powerful and unifying theme: "Celebrating Diversity " sharing a vision of fostering unity and understanding in our global community to what we know as "VasudhaivaKutumbakam". The students showcased marvelous performances implying that as we stand on this diverse canvas of cultures, united by the common ground beneath our feet, it is essential to recognize that we all inhabit the same planet and must be one when it comes to safeguarding it. Here is a sneak peek to the performances.



# JSSIS Events

## Cultural Diversity

Grade 1 – Peace Galore

Peace is unity in diversity not unity in similarity.

Grade 1's in all their mighty glory display an act of splashing waves of peace, and harmony portraying through the circle formation representing the symbol of peace through their performance drill. Their costumes also represent the symbol of peace 'Dove'.

Our little doves soared high depicting Peace Galore in their spectacular world and celebrated Cultural Diversity.



# JSSIS Events

## Cultural Diversity

### Grade 2 - Global Harmony

In the tapestry of the world, each thread represents a unique culture, a distinct voice, and a diverse perspective. In a world that is increasingly interconnected, embracing this diversity becomes the key to unlocking the full potential of our humanity.

The students of Grade 2 celebrated the beauty of global harmony by respecting and understanding each other and working together as a team.



# JSSIS Events

## Cultural Diversity

Grade 3 - 8

Unity in diversity is used as an expression of harmony and unity between different countries in the world. Students of Grade 3 to 8 gave an exemplary performance demonstrating the same. They depicted the dance forms of various countries showcasing their rich culture in the most artistic way.



# JSSIS Events

## Annual Concerts

### Pre-KG - Timeless Tales

Pre-KG students shook their best foot in on the theme 'Timeless Tales' where the saga of neverending tales was a treat to the eyes. It gave them exposure to be on the stage, share narratives, participate in the skit, dance to the rhythm and flaunt their colourful attire. The concert turned out to be a great fun learning saga.



### KG 1- Dreamers



The annual concert at JSSIS Kindergarten, themed "Dreamers" showcased KG students' talents through captivating performances and artistic expressions. With songs, dances, and theatrical displays, children embraced their dreams, inspiring awe and delight among the audience.

### KG2- Graduation Day with Celebrations

Inspired by the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One World, One Family. It is the uniqueness of each child, the diversity that enriches our school, and the interconnectedness that binds us as one family on this beautiful Earth. Congratulations to our graduates – May your journey ahead be as bright and promising as the smiles you carry every day!



# JSSIS Events

## Kids Inventor's Day

On 17th January, our young inventors showcased their creativity and innovation with zest and enthusiasm. It was truly inspiring to see the minds of our future leaders at work.



# JSSIS Events

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## A Field Day to Remember

It was a day of cherishing memories and fostering bonds when KG 1 students engaged themselves on the Field Day. The day was full of fun outdoor activities, promoting teamwork, physical fitness, and sportsmanship. The Sports Day for Grade 1 was celebrated with immense enthusiasm and energy, as children participated in various games, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. Students joyfully engaged in participating in various team sports such as cricket, basketball, football, obstacle courses, and numerous other games.



## Memories for a Lifetime

Our young learners in KG enjoyed a memorable Pyjama Party on 13th March, 2024, where they wore cozy sleepwear, played games, and bonded over bedtime stories. This fun-filled event fostered camaraderie, relaxation, and cherished memories.



# JSSIS Events

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## Out in the Garden One Fine Day

Pre-KG students embarked on an exciting visit to Al Barsha Park, immersing themselves in nature, playground fun, and outdoor activities. This enriching experience fostered exploration, physical activity, and appreciation for the environment.



## It's Raining Yummy Treats in Kindergarten

It was a sight to watch on 6th March, 2024, when KG students celebrated No-Fire Cooking Day, showcasing their culinary creativity with delicious dishes prepared without using fire. Through a hands-on learning approach, the children gained knowledge on nutrition, teamwork, and safety in the kitchen.



# JSSIS Events

## Lego Day

Kindergarten students immersed themselves into building blocks on Lego day. It was spectacular to see them bring their ideas to life with the legos.



# JSSIS Events

## Art Therapy - Soul Canvas

We believe in extending the therapeutic benefits of art to our wonderful parents!

Art Therapy workshop-Soul Canvas, a wellbeing session was conducted for the kindergarten parents.



# JSSIS Events

## EXPO Visit

Grade 3 students had an exciting opportunity to visit the Terra Sustainability Pavilion. During their visit, they embarked on a captivating journey through the pavilion, exploring the intricate relationship between human actions and the depths of the ocean as well as the roots of the forest. Students attended a workshop 'Waterworks' at Terra. 'Waterworks' is an educational activity that delves into the significance of water and emphasizes the importance of conservation, especially in regions facing water scarcity, such as the UAE.



# JSSIS Events

## The Islamic Fest

The Islamic Fest marked a significant inter-school event that drew participation from over 35 schools spanning across the United Arab Emirates. The event brought together more than 600 students who actively engaged in a diverse array of events, contributing to the vibrancy and cultural richness of the occasion.

The event featured a variety of competitions, including elocutions, Nashid (Islamic songs), calligraphy, projects, and Quran recitation. The Nashid competition showcased the musical talents and devotion of the participants, creating an atmosphere of unity and celebration.

In the calligraphy segment, students had the opportunity to express their artistic skills while also delving into the beauty of Arabic script, a corner-stone of Islamic art and culture. The project presentations were a testament to the students' creativity and innovative thinking, providing a platform for them to share their ideas and perspectives on relating science and Quran.

The highlight of the Islamic Fest was the Quran recitation competition, where participants showcased their proficiency in the sacred art of reciting the Quran. This segment not only celebrated the linguistic and spiritual mastery of the students but also fostered a deeper connection with Islamic traditions.



# JSSIS Events

## National Science Day Assembly

The middle school students hosted a vibrant National Science Day Assembly, showcasing the school's commitment to scientific exploration. The event featured a compelling science skit, offering an engaging narrative on scientific concepts.

Additionally, a thought-provoking debate on the "Pros and Cons of AI" sparked intellectual discussions among students, fostering critical thinking skills. The JAM (Just-A-Minute) session provided a platform for the teachers to express their thoughts on science-related topics in a concise and spontaneous manner. The mono-act for the role of Dr. C.V. Raman, and the Science experiments videography added a touch of uniqueness and excitement to the program.

The assembly concluded with insights from the Principal, Ms. Lata Nakra and the middle school supervisor, Mr. Jayakumar, emphasizing the importance of science in education and encouraging students to embrace curiosity. The event successfully blended entertainment with educational content, leaving a positive impact on the school community.



# JSSIS Events

## Night Camp

In the familiar confines of the school campus, an unforgettable night camp unfolded for primary and middle school students.

As dusk settled, underneath the soft glow of campus lights, students eagerly participated in a variety of activities meticulously planned by teachers. Laughter filled the air as students cheered on their classmates, forging bonds through friendly competition. With the stars twinkling overhead, they swayed to the rhythm of melodies, immersing themselves in the serenity of the night.

As they drifted off to sleep, they carried with them the memories of a night filled with laughter, adventure and newfound connections.



## A Trip to the Circus

Our primary and middle school students embarked on a thrilling journey filled with adrenaline-pumping motorbike stunts, awe-inspiring performances, and valuable learning experiences during their recent field trip to the circus!

From dared evil motorbike stunts to breathtaking aerial displays, our students were captivated by the precision and agility of the performers as they defied gravity.

They had the chance to witness firsthand the dedication, discipline, and teamwork required to execute such daring feats.

Moreover, it inspired them to pursue their passions and explore new possibilities with creativity and enthusiasm.



# JSSIS Events

## Carnival: A Festive Extravaganza

As the sun dipped below the horizon on the evening of 10th February, the school grounds came alive with the vibrant energy of a carnival. From 5p.m. until 9 p.m. students, teachers and families gathered to partake in an unforgettable celebration of community and camaraderie. From lively dance routines to heartwarming musical acts, performances by students and teachers alike added to the festive atmosphere, leaving spectators in awe.

Meanwhile, the sound of laughter and friendly competition echoed from the game stalls, where students tested their skills and luck in various entertaining challenges. With each performance, bite of delicious food, and moment of shared laughter, memories were created that would be cherished for years to come, making the Carnival an unforgettable celebration of camaraderie and fun.



# JSSIS Events

## Meeting with Dr. Suresh Bhojraj

A motivational session by the Director and Pro-Chancellor Dr. Suresh Bhojraj was conducted for the leaders of JSS School on Wednesday, 28th February, 2024. The insights of the session were to strive for excellence, cultivate resilience, and navigate challenges with confidence.

It inspired us to keep moving forward, seize new opportunities, push boundaries, earn the trust and support of the team by upholding values, and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

It also advocated emerging stronger while embracing failures in the process to achieve goals.



# Author Talk

## Author Talk on Life Intelligence

On 5th January, 2024 our school had the distinct pleasure of hosting a captivating Author Talk on “Life Intelligence” featuring Dr. Susan Koruthu, a renowned contemporary author celebrated for “Mom and Dad, I Am Your Teen Speaking” and “Design Your Life to Build a Legacy”. The event took place in the school auditorium offering students a chance to witness the creative process firsthand and to delve deeper on “Life Intelligence.” Dr. Susan Koruthu captured the audience’s attention with her engaging storytelling skills, creating an atmosphere of literary immersion.



During the enlightening Author Talk, the speaker emphasized the significance of Life Intelligence, delving into various dimensions such as Family Intelligence, Social Intelligence, Career Intelligence, Financial Intelligence, Sexual Intelligence, and Spiritual Intelligence. A focal point of the discussion was the advocacy for embracing the "Power of No" as a potent tool against all forms of toxicity. The speaker concluded the session with a powerful mantra: "Communicate the maximum possible in the minimum required words," emphasizing the efficiency and impact of concise communication. The event exemplified the school's commitment to enriching the educational experience and fostering a love for literature among its students.

# JSSIS Events

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## Women's Day

Ikigai team at JSSIS celebrated Women's Day on 7th March, 2024 with great enthusiasm and fervour! The event featured soulful songs, live painting sessions by art teachers, lively dance performances by KG teachers, engaging games, and an inspirational talk by our Principal.



# Odyssey of IKIGAI

## Embracing Unity in Diversity

In the vibrant mosaic of JSS International School, we celebrate the beauty that cultural differences bring to our school community. As mental health professionals, we are privileged to witness how these diverse perspectives shape the way our students perceive the world around them. Here, we celebrate the profound beauty of unity in diversity. Our school stands as a testament to inclusivity where the diversity of each student isn't merely acknowledged; it's celebrated. At JSSIS, we proudly wear the badge of an inclusive school, fostering unity in diversity making sure we cherish the uniqueness each student brings to the table.

Every student, irrespective of their background, talent, or cultural heritage, is welcomed with open arms. In this inclusive haven, justice knows no bias. We ensure that every individual is accorded equal respect and justice. Whether addressing the needs of students with complex requirements or nurturing the talents of the more abled, we modify, accommodate, and differentiate learning in a way which will create a harmonious environment where unity thrives.

We don't just teach subjects; we teach compassion and understanding. We are not merely educators; we are advocates for unity, empathy, and acceptance. In fostering unity, we prioritize the well-being of each student, ensuring that they feel seen, heard, and cherished.

Our school stands tall as a testament to the beauty that emerges when unity and diversity dance hand in hand. Here, every student is a cherished thread, weaving the rich fabric of our inclusive community.

**- IKIGAI Department**

# Unity in Diversity

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## Students Speak :Voices Unveiled

In a world where differences often divide, the concept of unity amidst diversity stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the beauty found in coexistence. These aspects of the world go hand in hand, just like the images and sounds in a movie. Unity encourages us to find common ground, bridging gaps and fostering understanding, while diversity celebrates the beauty of our differences.

Unity is not the type of attribute that can be described strictly. It is often confused with uniformity, while it is a bond that brings together hearts and souls, weaving threads of empathy and compassion to create a tapestry of shared humanity. It creates a sense of belonging and shared purpose. With unity, we can celebrate the unique contributions of each individual and their culture.

Diversity, on the other hand, is like the spice of life which brings flavor and variety to our communities. It challenges us to expand our perspectives, learn from, and appreciate one another. It is a source of innovation, creativity, and growth, enriching our lives with new ideas, traditions and perspectives. By embracing diversity, we pave the way for a more inclusive and understanding society.

In conclusion, unity and diversity are not opposing forces, but complementary elements which form the foundation of a healthier community. When the two of these are embraced, we create a world where every voice is heard, every quality is valued, and everyone, together, reaches their full potential.

- Nitya Shridhar 8D

# Students Speak :Voices Unveiled

“Unity in Diversity” is a phrase that emphasizes the importance of togetherness despite differences. Diversity means we're all different, speaking different languages, celebrating different festivals, and having unique traditions. Unity is when we work together, help each other, and make sure everyone feels included. It's like having a bunch of different puzzle pieces that, when put together, make a beautiful picture. When we respect and understand each other's differences, it makes our community stronger.

Unity in diversity teaches us to be kind, understanding, and respectful. By learning about different cultures, we open our minds to new ideas and become more compassionate society. In a globalized world, the importance of unity in diversity extends beyond national borders. It serves as a guiding principle for fostering international cooperation and collaboration.

Embracing diversity enhances the cultural richness of community or nation. Different traditions, languages, art forms, and cuisines contribute to a diverse and vibrant cultural heritage. It promotes social harmony and encourages people to appreciate the similarities and differences that make each person unique.

Exposure to diverse cultures and ideas nurtures tolerance and openmindedness. Individuals learn to accept different beliefs and practices, promoting a more inclusive and accepting society. It also equips students to think critically and adapt to different situations and prepares them to be global citizen. The UAE is a live example to the world of what the meaning of “Unity in Diversity” is. The UAE’s culture is dynamic and tolerant. The diversity of the UAE contributes to the variety and richness of the country’s culture and strengthens the national unity. Let's embrace our uniqueness and appreciate the differences in others.

By Nitin Prakash-6D

# Students Speak :Voices Unveiled

Unity in diversity is a profound concept that celebrates various differences within a community, emphasizing on the benefits that occur when different people from various backgrounds work towards a common goal. It proves that we achieve more when unified, rather than individually. This concept has proved true to the test of time.

Entering India in 1608 with an elementary goal of trading, the British soon identified a lucrative opportunity to colonise this resourceful land. And soon, India was suppressed under British Raj (rule). Throughout this period, several regional revolts occurred, but these divided forces of multiple kingdoms were no match for the unified British Army. And then Indian rulers realised the importance of unity and put aside their differences for the nation's freedom. The first unified revolt against the British happened in 1857 which finally left a dent in the British Army. Multiple such attempts followed, bestowing freedom from The British Empire in 1947. As rightly said, "United we stand, divided we fall."

By Arjun Choudary - 8A

# Students Speak :Voices Unveiled

Unity in diversity flourishes as the cornerstone of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a nation where a kaleidoscope of cultures, traditions, and languages converges to shape a vibrant and harmonious mosaic. Visualize a bustling souk where diverse influences blend seamlessly, much like the cultural amalgamation thriving in the UAE. Each Emirate, like a distinct chapter, contributes its unique elements to the overarching narrative, creating a nation that resonates with the harmonious blend of modernity and tradition.

In the cultural panorama of the UAE, diversity is not an obstacle but a thriving celebration, akin to a grand festival where every community enriches the collective spectrum. Picture the intricate patterns of traditional clothing; each thread represents a cultural facet, intricately woven to create a fabric that symbolizes national identity. The UAE stands as a testament to the beauty that emerges when various traditions coexist, much like the blend of contemporary and traditional architecture that graces its skyline.

Unity in diversity for the UAE is not a mere concept but a lived experience, reflecting in the rhythm of daily life and the dynamic pulse of economic and cultural activities. It's not about erasing differences but finding strength in them, creating a symphony where every note, much like each community, contributes to the harmonious melody that defines the progressive spirit of the United Arab Emirates.

By Aayush

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# Teacher's Expressions

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## The Wrecked Boat

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Those harsh waves across the shore,  
Often struck strongly, the wrecked boat.  
The grounded boat kept quiet, always.  
And the tides tried all their terrible ways.  
The days and nights passed by.  
And the boat didn't make any hue or cry.

And, one day, the same boat sailed over the mighty waves.  
The waves were stunned to see the boat's strengthened gaze.  
Asked the waves in surprise,  
"How can a stranded thing turn so strong?"  
"What made it so strong?"

The boat replied:  
"While the harsh waves were testing my cool,  
I worked rigorously to sharpen my tools,  
To sail over the waves so dominant,  
Transforming and strengthening myself for permanent."

By Suruchi Bakshi

# Readers Maketh Leaders

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”

We couldn't agree more with Stephen King, the American author known for horror, supernatural fiction, suspense, crime, science-fiction, and fantasy novels.

We can go deep and dive into the world of books. Be it fictional or non-fictional, love for books cannot be defined. Have you ever thought what makes one a fantastic orator? What is that makes an author he or she is? What does it take to deliver a speech flawlessly? You got that right, reading. If you have ever liked Barack Obama's speeches, it is thanks to his reading habit. He knew what to speak, how to speak and how to make his content interesting and engaging.

For those who have yet to embark on the reading journey, the pathway is wide open. Libraries, newspapers, kindle, or e-books - the avenues are varied. As Walt Disney's wisdom reminds us, where there is a will, there is a way!

So, let's pave the road for leaders and thinkers. Remember, Readers Maketh Leaders.

# Readers Maketh Leaders

**Reading Competition:** Our school participated in the one-month annual reading competition hosted by CleverTech to inspire and motivate reading across the UAE. The students competed with their peers, as well as with students from other International Schools across the Emirates to become “The Next Top Reader”. They also earned stars by completing various reading activities while seizing the chance to win the grand prizes.

*We have secured 3rd position among 109 schools who participated in UAE.*

**Student-Led Book Talks:** The Book Talk session was conducted by grade 9 students to strengthen the culture of reading and encourage peer-to-peer recommendations and literary discussions. The talk observed participation of students sharing their personal insights and reflections on the recent books read and its impact on them. The notable aspects of the book talk were an interactive discussion around classics and the mystery aspect of popular stories. The works discussed during the session included *The Alchemist*, *Forever*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Five Survive*, *The Cursed Child*, *Son of Neptune*, *Verity*, *Harry Potter* and *the Goblet of Fire* and *A Good Girls Guide To Murder*.

## Reading Gives You Wings

Reading helps to focus on the words, new vocabulary and reading uplifts the mood. Reading competition on 6th February was held differently in the third term taking into account the student's progress from term 1. It gives us great pleasure to see the progress in our young readers and makes us feel proud to see them excel in this reading competition. We look forward to seeing our students readers thus making them future leaders.



# ... And it's a Wrap!!!

As we conclude the final edition of the Mind Mirage (Academic Year 2023-24), we are filled with gratitude for the remarkable effort that has gone into making this magazine. The rich blend of perspectives from both students and teachers has created a dynamic environment that beautifully illustrates the essence of our diverse school community.

As we step into the new academic year, let's carry this celebration of diversity forward. We encourage each one of you—students and teachers alike to continue sharing your stories, insights, and unique perspectives. Let us use the platform of our school magazine to amplify the richness that diversity brings to our lives.

Until next time, Happy Reading!