

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE-WORLD SCHOOL FORUM 2016

The air was palpable with excitement and anticipation as the four representatives of PSBB Nungambakkam embarked upon a two week journey to Tokyo, Japan to represent India in the World School International Forum, on Sunday the 23rd of October, 2016. Mentored and accompanied by the Vice Principal, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Raman, Vibha Vasan, Bala Aditya and Tejas Sudarshan from class 11, armed with voluminous material, proceeded to enlighten the forum about India's culture and cuisine. PSBB has been representing India in this forum for the past 12 years in succession and was proud to be one among the 21 countries to take part this year as well.

Preparation for this forum commenced in June, starting from the selection of the delegates for this wonderful opportunity. A series of selection rounds based on the theme "Food and Culture" were organized in order to choose the most deserving. Representing a country is a responsibility indeed! The student delegates were required to take a 100 person survey based on India's food habits. Apart from this, several research booklets and presentations were made to exhibit the complete collection of Indian culture. Preparing for this was not an easy task, but the praises and claps received at the end made it all worth it!

And finally after blood, sweat and tears (at the airport) the team landed in Japan on Monday, October 24th 2016. The forum was designed in such a way, that sparks ignited as soon as the delegations met each other. The first few days consisted of Country Seminar Presentations, which gave everyone a basic introduction to twenty different cultures. The entire group was later taken to Kanto International School, where each country presented a dance to celebrate their culture. Some of the performers called the audience on to the stage, inspiring even the shyest of the lot to shake a leg. Shinjuku was a shopping destination where the delegates were taken, which had some of the most fashionable shops in the world. Crazy photo-shoots involving both the teacher and the students (from Kanto as well as India), taken in Japan's famous drawing photo-booths, contributed towards surreal memories.

The forum, much like a coin had two sides, one of fun and the other educational. The coin flipped towards the latter for the last 4 days of the Forum. Students were allotted groups- Health, Culture and Convenience- and were given real world issues to solve. One student from each country was in each, and all the groups worked towards solving these issues. The final solutions were presented on national television, where each group delivered a 30 minute presentation. All of the solutions were realistic and this forum's aim was for the delegates to take these solutions back home to their countries and do their best to implement them.

The forum focused a lot on building strong relationships between delegates and a lot of sports and extra-curricular activities were organized as both stress-relievers and ice-breakers. Despite a hectic schedule even up till the last day, the forum left a lot delegates teary eyed, due to the impact the forum made in each person's life. The farewell included a tree-planting ceremony where each delegate contributed by planting a tree to symbolize the ever-lasting friendship made in the forum. The farewell ceremony ended with a dance night where all of the delegates of different countries further cemented their bonds cheerfully.

Thus World School International Forum, 2016 proved to be a unique cultural exchange of ideas and a mammoth opportunity indeed!

By,
Vibha Vasan, Bala Aditya and Tejas Parthasarathi





World School International Forum 2016
October 24th to November 5th 2016

