

The Odyssey to Online Occasions – Demo GA 2020 !

It was an invigorating inauguration of 'GA 2020' when the first General Assembly of the year 2020-21 took off on a vibrant 'virtual' note at 1.30 pm on 15th July, 2020, much to the delight of the students of Std IX, for whom it was held. Divided into two groups and held simultaneously through the Zoom platform, the Demo GA was a well co-ordinated and expertly synced event. Organised by the Internal and External Cultural Secretaries of PSBB Nungambakkam to celebrate World Youth Skills Day, the virtual General Assembly was a splendid and much awaited attraction, that unleashed the creativity and organising skills of the student council members.

The programme, a 'Demo GA' gave the students who had

just entered High School, an idea of how 'Culturals' are conducted in schools across the city. Pre-recorded videos of some events were shown, in order to introduce them to the various events and to help them grasp not only the intricacies of the segments, but also the judging criteria. Beginning with an introduction and a welcome address by the School Pupil Leaders, Sudiksha Desikan, and Arvind Shivram, the juniors were welcomed to school life in the new 'campus' with its fun and challenges. The mention of 'samosas' garnered much excitement among the audience while they listened eagerly to details of the various facilities of the school, clubs and the extracurricular activities that they would get to pursue over the next four years.

The events commenced on an animated note and the first event shown to the students was a demonstration of the cultural event 'Block and Tackle', where the participants were given two minutes to prepare for both sides of a particular argument to seamlessly switch between the two whenever they were asked to. A fun and interesting diversion from the formal methodology of debating, the topics included 'Captain America trilogy vs Iron Man trilogy', and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory vs Harry Potter and the participants left the audience and hosts in splits!

Subsequently, the students were introduced to 'Spin a Yarn', where a story is woven together by a group of students with new characters and changes in locations. An imaginative and highly entertaining story on the



topic ‘ Baahubali enters a grocery store in Chennai’ with characters like Barbie, Bob the Builder and Ben 10, was created on the spot, culminating in an epic character smackdown, leaving the audience stunned.

The rules of the cultural event ,’Battle of the Bands’ and GA music performances were then explained . This was followed by two music videos of performances in different styles. Skandan regaled the audience with a brilliant violin recital, playing ‘Tillana’ by Composer Lalgudi Sri Jayaraman, while Shruti Balaji captured the western classic ‘Tough Love’ by Avicii on the piano. Both the performances were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. With melodies still in their minds, the audience then watched a fusion of two different dance styles - Bharatanatyam and Kathak ,performed by the dancers of PSBB Nungambakkam, each in her own home ,which were showcased in a video , put together by the leaders.

The efforts of the students were highly appreciated by the Dean and Director & Correspondent ,Mrs. Sheela Rajendra, who congratulated the staff and students .After the events, the floor was open to questions. The queries which ranged from Culturals ,General Assemblies, Elections, Model United Nations etc. were clarified by Mrs. Vasanthi S. ,Principal Nungambakkam in one group and Mrs. Asha Pillai, Assistant Vice-Principal in the other. “We’re not promising anything at this juncture ,considering the scenario, but events could be organised once a month!” said Mrs. Vasanthi.

The senior teachers in charge of GA, 2020-21 and the student council members also pitched in to answer the queries put forth by the excited students of Std IX, in both groups. The Executive Trustee and Management Representative, Mr. Y.G. Rajendraa complimented the leaders on the “well planned and executed Demo GA” , suggesting that the feasibility of conducting ‘Reverberations’ online could be explored.

On that thrilling thought, the students left the scene, their hearts filled with hope and excitement, looking forward to the upcoming cultural events in the year ahead. The online GA was a spectacular success, paving the way for more online events to come !

