

# GUSTO

*'A Picto#gram' - Journey depicted through pictures*

## An Annual concert to remember...

School is a place where learners build different skill sets for life. Where else would they develop their oratory skills, confidence, language and kinesthetic abilities?

Podar International School, Thane's – Cambridge Assessment International Education section provides a plethora of opportunities encouraging children to broaden their horizons by exploring the uncharted territories of dance, music and dramatics. Thus, the learner moulds into a confident seeker who seeks opportunities to harness his or her 'Potent Potentials'.

-Ms. Aruna Mundiayath

Principal- Cambridge International School, Thane



### 'Heidi-A Musical Masterpiece'

Annual function is a prestigious event in the school calendar. Podar International School, Thane's – Cambridge Assessment International Education section celebrated its second Annual day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at Dr. Kashinath Ghanekar Natyagruh, Thane.

All teachers under the guidance of the Principal ensured that students occupied centre stage throughout the event showcasing different skills like acting, dancing, singing and playing of musical instruments. The event was well received as all students' right from the primary level to the secondary level displayed their talents.

The event commenced with students welcoming the audience and inviting the Principal for the inaugural address followed by the musical dance-drama titled 'Heidi - A Musical'. The play involved students from grades I to VIII in different roles. It was well supported by the choir and the live band. As it was a musical concert, the brilliant acting performances were seamlessly merged with as many as 15 dance performances. This took the audience through Heidi's quest for happiness. The theme of 'Love, Friendship and Kindness' touched hearts. In the process, children gave a soulful message of building a better and a more inclusive world for everyone.

In the inaugural speech, the Principal, Ms. Aruna Mundiayath highlighted the need for 21<sup>st</sup> century education to transcend the boundaries of mere knowledge acquisition and to shift focus onto holistic development. She cited Jack Ma's views on future education. Jack Ma emphasized, "We cannot teach children to compete with machines. On the contrary, we should develop skills that would make them better and different from the machines. Students should be taught 'Music, Painting and Creative work'. The qualities we need to imbibe in the future generations are; Believing, Independent thinking, Teamwork and Caring for others."

The Annual concert was an enigmatic show that captured hearts and left memories that will stay with us forever.



## Rendezvous with Ms. Aruna Mundiyyath

Q1. How did the theme of the play unravel?

Ans. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> academic year and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual concert. The parents who have been with us since year 1 would have had high expectations. So the challenge was to come up with something that would meet their expectations. At the same time we wanted to have something that would leave an impression on one and all. The theme of love, friendship & kindness thus unravelled.

Q2. Why 'Heidi'?

Ans. We thought about a lot of ideas. Ms. Arora kept pestering me with lovely plays and extracts. However, we both just could not agree upon any one. One late winter evening, Ms. Arora called me and asked "How about Heidi?" This was a story most of us had loved growing up. Instantaneously the nostalgia put a smile on my face and we unanimously exclaimed, 'Heidi it is! Heidi Heidi Ho'....

Q3. What went in making the concert a success?

Ans. A lot of perspiration, inspiration and dedication both from 'the teachers' and 'the taught'.

Q4 According to you, what were the events highlights?

Ans. Every part of the event is special but there are few moments that I can share.

- 1) All children accepted, believed & respected their parts in the play, no matter big or small.
- 2) When we started the practice, all children were prepared & ready with their dialogues.
- 3) The camaraderie shared by the pupil as well as the teachers show how important each pillar is in making an event a success.

Q5. What memories of the concert will you cherish?

Ans. To begin with, the zest and zeal of the children was at the pinnacle. As a teacher, educator and a leader it's my opinion that, this is the most valuable take away I could ever have. Having said that, the children sang (live choir), played musical instruments, narrated, acted and independently executed the entire concert. "This is our victory!"

# Annual Concert 2017-18





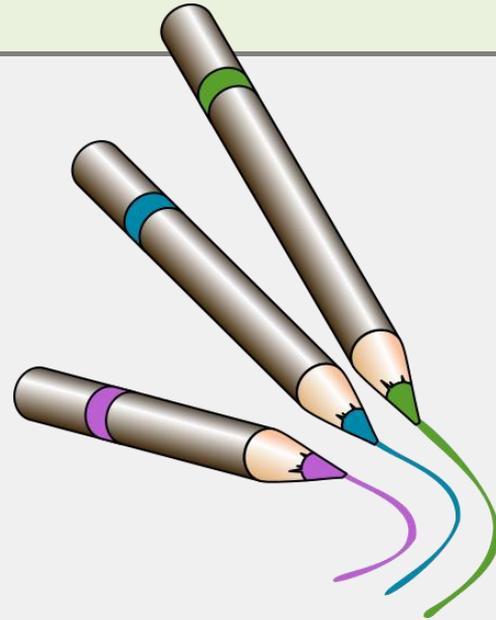
# TESTIMONIALS

Congratulations to all the teachers and children for putting up a wonderful show. It was good to see the entire school work as a team. We had great fun.

Thank you

-Ms. Snehal

(Parent of Johan Pillai, Grade II)



The concert was awesome. I liked the concept of a musical play. It was like watching a block-buster performance. Each and every child showcased their talent and patience. The efforts of the staff were clearly visible through the choreography, line of events and display of skills by the students.

-Ms. Shoree

(Parent of Maahira Shoree, Grade VI)

Annual concert was like a movie for us, we got stuck with this journey right from the first performance of a musical introduction to the mega dance performance with all happy faces. We lived with 'Heidi' and experienced her journey. Great direction, superb casting and marvellous stage set ups. Everything was perfect. Hats off to each and every child for their performance. They were effortless in their act and were completely immersed in their character. I can understand the kind of efforts that must have gone in making this play. We are thankful to the team behind this play. Now, you all have raised your quality bar and the expectation is going to be high. However, we know that you will be doing your best as always. We give you best wishes & a heartfelt thank you for giving our children an opportunity to live with their characters.

Thank you once again to the entire 'Team & Principal Ma'am'.

-Ms. Swati Pillai,

(Parent of Stuthii Pillai, Grade VI)

To,

The Heidi team

Podar International School

Dear Team,

What a spectacular and fantastically woven Annual concert! I must congratulate the team that made our day so delightful. The effort, from choosing a lovely story to showcasing it perfectly was outstanding. It is essential for each child to perform on the stage in order to gain confidence. There was no stage fear seen in the children. The play was well written and directed. It involved lots of fun and enthusiasm.

My child's incredible performance and confidence is adding glitter in my life. I thank all the teachers for pouring their trust and love in our children.

I ought to thank Principal Ma'am for giving the students various opportunities along with the freedom of creativity. Her warm smile is always an inspiration for the children.

Regards,

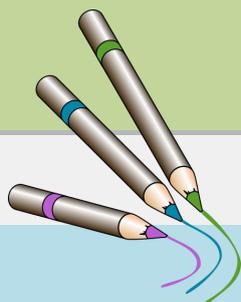
Bindiya Desai,

(Parent of Tanishq Desai, Grade VI)



On a calm winter evening when I was snug up in the corner of my sanctuary (home), my memories got wings and Heidi unfolded in front of me like a canvas filled with colours. Such was the enthusiasm about the play and I couldn't stop myself from calling my Principal, who shared the same joy and enthusiasm for 'Heidi' a classic memory from our childhood. It was a spark which ignited flames of a spectacular performance. A marvellous play thus, was an outcome of the idea.

I cherished and enjoyed every moment of this musical concert. The joy in each and every child was a reward; I got in return of my passion to take them on this musical journey. We loved and lived with Heidi. The awe-inspiring memories of this concert will stay with me for times immemorial.



-Ms. Mrinali Arora

Aren't School Annual Days full of excitement that starts with a rumble in the stomach?

I was enthused and nervous preparing for the play based on the classic novel 'Heidi'. Though I had read this book before, but as we practiced... every day my love for 'Heidi' kept growing.

Our Principal Ms.Aruna Mundiayath believed in me and motivated me, a newbie to Podar School, by involving me in 'Heidi'.

The team made best efforts and undertook each task given with full justice and honesty. Each child was involved in staging this performance which they thoroughly enjoyed. Credits go to my co-teachers who kept the kids enthused and engaged. This act was thoughtfully staged with a perfect mix of dialogues, songs and dances.

I observed each member contributing with complete dedication. The concert was truly a live display of excellence. All hands united to deliver. 'Together We Can'.

Yes! On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 the kids shone like stars. I could see tears of joy all around me. 'Heidi' was successful in melting hearts. A sense of satisfaction and pride filled in as the team staged this play successfully.

The Annual day was not just about an effort from the school to stage a show; it had a larger meaning - Collaboration, Team Spirit, Solidarity, Trust- thus building a stronger bond as a family. This achievement filled me with contentment as I discovered all happy faces after the show. See you all on the next annual day...keep smiling

-Ms. Bhavdeep B Ray

'Talent and hard work when meet together, results in success.'

I will not hesitate to mention how talented our students are.

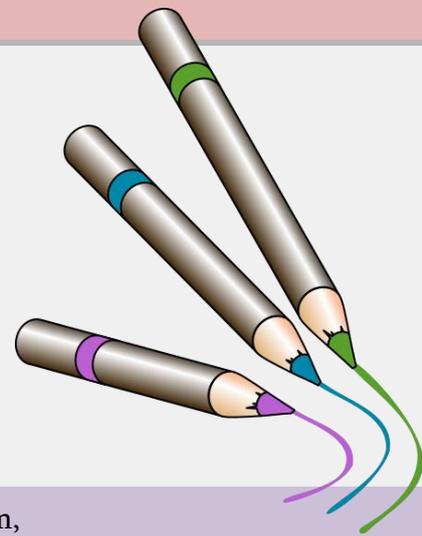
When their talent was nourished with their hard work, what came out was a super hit show 'HEIDI'

The entire journey from plotting the play, to selecting the music, auditions, the rehearsals and finally the D – day was simply incredible.

I feel short of words to express my gratitude to our principal Ms Aruna Mundiayath for showing faith in us and supporting us at each step.

All the teachers had tears in their eyes after the superb performance of our brilliant children. 'Yes! Hard-work always pays.'

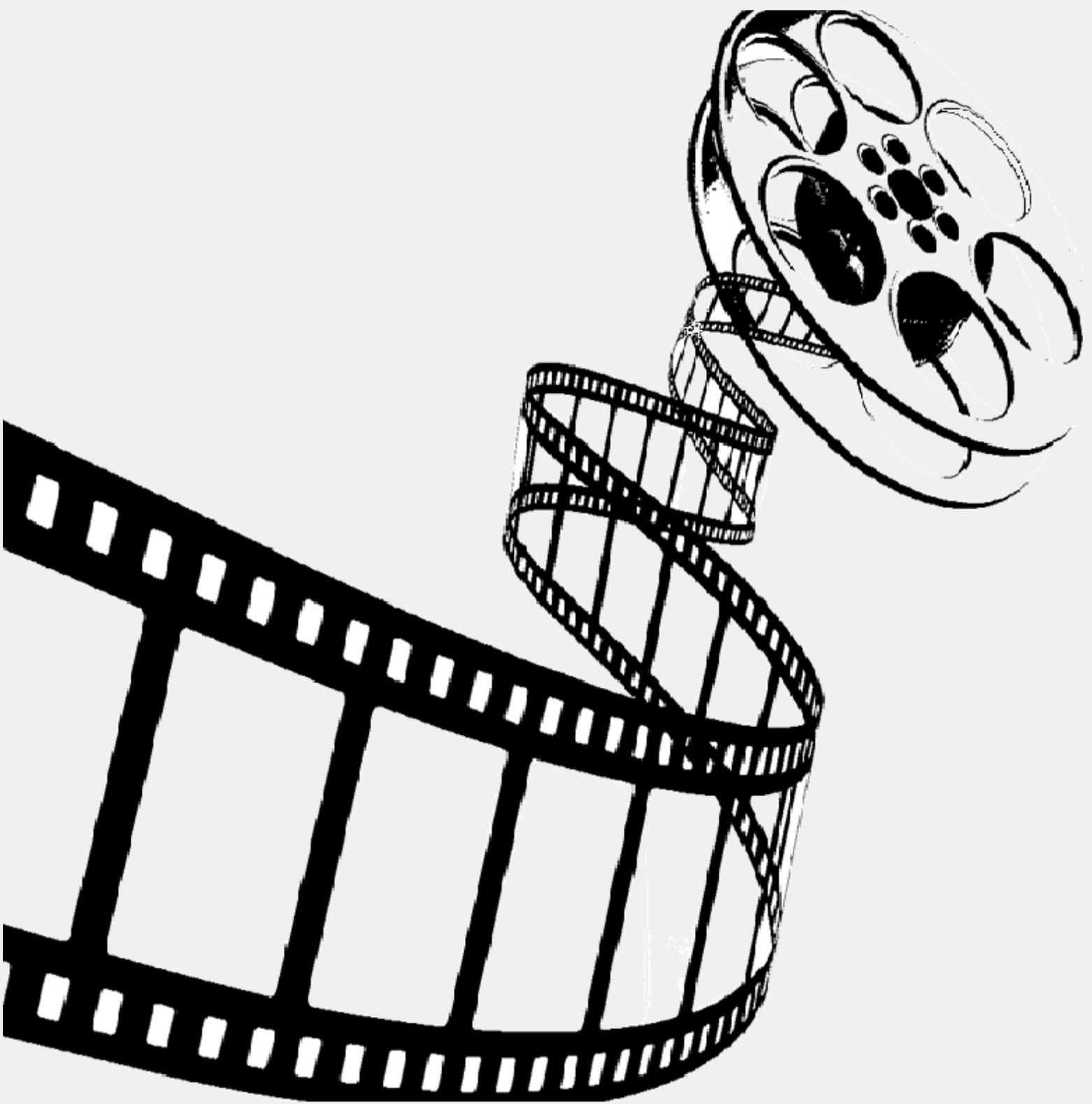
-Ms. Shipra Mittal



To PIS-Cambridge Assessment International Education team,

It feels honourable to be a part of such an amazing and talented bunch of students and teachers at PIS-Cambridge Assessment International Education, Thane. This year we scored a hat-trick for a successful event and received tremendous applause from our audience for the never ending spirit and mind blowing performance of our students. There were students performing as characters, narrators, dancers and band members. It was a delight to see each child transforming. They struggled with their dialogues but, finally delivered a flawless show. This left everyone speechless. It was indeed the most memorable 'Annual day' I witnessed since my years as a teacher at PIS-Cambridge Assessment International Education.

-Ms Deepika A Pawar.



# PICTURE GALLERY

# Dynamic Classroom Activities



# Assessments of Listening, Reading and Speaking Skills



# Sports Day 2017-18









# A Fun-filled Field Trip



# Staff Photograph



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