

**R.S. ACTIVITY REPORT**

(March to September 2012)

**Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, India**



**Round Square Activity Report**

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**School Name: Dhirubhai Ambani International School  
Mumbai  
India**

**Session: 2012 (March to September)**

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Number of students gone out on exchanges in the last 7 months</b> | <p>Total Number of Exchanges: 3<br/>Total Number of Students: 58<br/>Total Number of Teachers: 7</p> <p><b>Indo-Spain Cultural Exchange, Madrid</b><br/>SEK International School Madrid<br/>March 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2012<br/>20 Students + 2 teachers</p> <p>This cultural exchange was a prelude to an enhanced understanding of the richness of both the cultures and did not stop with workshops and presentations. Touring the city of Madrid, DAIS students and teachers soaked up all the cultural and historical delights on offer. They visited the Royal Palace, Prado Museum, Real Madrid San Bernabeu Stadium, Debot Temple, Plaza Mayor, Plaza de España and Parque de Retiro. The trip ended fittingly on a Spanish note: a flamboyant flamenco performance and staple Spanish food. To frame these Spanish moments, each of them chronicled their 8-day experience and reflections in journals.</p> <p><b>DAIS- Indo-French Cultural Exchange, Paris</b><br/>L Ermitage School Paris<br/>March 9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2012<br/>18 students+ 2 teachers</p> <p>The first step in Paris had the jackets zipped up, the hoods up and the boots on. But the sheer magic of Paris and the warmth of the Ermitage crew ensured that the one week stay in Paris would be one of fun and laughter. The cultural exchange started on the very first day with the students trying out their language skills at a traditional French creperie. The whole trip was one of discovery – the historical and cultural monuments, the artistic hubs, the grand Eiffel, the beautiful parks and elegant cafes, the bohemian chic of Montmartre and the classy Champs-Elysses – we soaked in the vibrant cultural metropolis that is Paris. The Parisienne Diaries bear testimony to the fact that every country is just like any other. The tongues and shades vary, maybe nothing else. Some eat croissant, some eat roti, that's it.</p> <p><b>The Czech Connection: Indo-Czech Student Exchange, Prague</b><br/>Open gate School Prague<br/>June 2012<br/>11 students + 2 teachers</p> |
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|    |  | <p>The Open Gate school opened its gate and heart to welcome 11 DAIS students and 2 teachers in the summer of 2012. From unique cuisines in quaint local open-air eateries and refreshing walks through the untamed forests to a walking tour through the historically rich city of Prague, we had ample opportunities to soak up the cultural experience. As a cultural exchange, students also got a firsthand experience of accepting different perspectives as perceived during class when students from both countries got to interact with each other in a more formal environment. It opened up new discussions about the distinctions and similarities between our cultures. The interaction with students from the Primary School to the IB students also served as an educational experience and opened our mind to the perceived impressions of India. The much awaited 'Food Festival' followed by the school's cultural show 'The Blue Van Festival' also ensured that students of both countries experienced a little bit of the local colour both culturally &amp; gastronomically. The day trip to the Coal mines, visits to Kutna Hora, and taking in the sights at the various palaces was as educational and enthralling as the night out at the Ballet - Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. Our service activities included a visit to the Old-age home as well as an afternoon cleaning up the forest. The host families who warmly welcomed us into their homes played a very important role in teaching us about the lifestyle and family values in the Czech Republic, which played a big role in our understanding of Czech culture. Each day that we spent with our Czech friends strengthened the connection and we brought back the glitter of Czech warmth with us...</p> |
| 2. | <b>Number of students come to you on exchange in the last 7 months</b> | <p><b>The Regent's School, Pattaya</b><br/><b>1 student for a month in Year 11</b> (Skirmante Grigante)<br/>Skirmante experienced life overseas as a 'local', and not just as a tourist by staying with a local family &amp; living life as they did. Moving out of her comfort zone and meeting new people, it helped her gain an international perspective.</p> <p><b>DAIS – Indo-Czech Exchange Service Project</b><br/><b>Villages of Hassachipatti and Kumbhargarh</b><br/><b>March 22nd to 24th 2012</b></p> <p>As a new initiative this year, our school has collaborated with – The Open Gate School - Prague, to</p>  |

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|    |   | <p>promote an exchange programme that hopes to foster new ties &amp; international understanding between the 2 schools at an educational &amp; cultural level. This exchange programme involved doing service in both the villages of Hassachipatti and Kumbhargarh.</p> <p>In Hassachipatti, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2012, students worked on the path to the village. Their aim was to cut steps into the path and concretize them so that the villagers have a more comfortable access road throughout the year. They also took up work on the Computer Laboratory and dug a Water Harvesting Pit with a capacity of 70,000 litres.</p> <p>From 22nd to 24th March 2012, 10 students from the Open Gate School, Prague, along with 18 DAIS students from Year 11 &amp; Year 9, set off to complete the last leg of the Kumbhargarh project for the academic year 2011-12. They were accompanied by 2 teachers from the Open Gate School &amp; 4 teachers from DAIS. Here, they completed construction of the sewage pits &amp; all the walls of the 1<sup>st</sup> mud house in the village – a herculean task for a handful of students with no practical knowledge of handling the tools of the trade or the structural information of building a sewage pit or creating a mud house for that matter.</p> <p><a href="#">DAIS Indo French Exchange Programme Villages of Hassachipatti and Kumbhargarh Early March 2102</a> For 4 days, French students from L’Ermitage visited the villages of Hasachipatti and Kumbhargar. Since they were in India for a Round Square Service Project, it was essential for them to work in these villages. On the first day, they constructed mud houses by mixing red soil, sand, gravel and water thoroughly and then pressing it onto the allocated areas for the walls. The other days were dedicated to completing a pit for sewage and a quarter section of a wall.</p> |
| 3. | <b>Number of students who have participated in any sort of RS Conference in the last 7 months</b> | <p><a href="#">Junior SA&amp;G Regional Conference</a><br/>The Millennium School Dubai<br/>March 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012<br/>8 students + 1 teacher</p> <p>This Conference reiterated that though geographical borders separate us, we are all very similar in many ways. From inspiring speeches from a life coach, they</p>  |

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|    |   | <p>gleaned important lessons on how to live their dreams and shape their personalities as thinking and sensitive individuals. Students also enjoyed workshops on art, dance, music, drama and calming yoga sessions. Desert safari, sightseeing and such other activities not only helped students forge bonds of friendship but also enhanced cultural sensitivity.</p>   |
| 4. | <b>Number of students who have participated in any sort of RS Service Camp in the last 7 months</b> | <p><b>Annual Round Square Regional Service Project<br/>Katapathar and Fatehpur, Dehradun</b></p> <p><b>July 16 to 26th 2012</b><br/><b>14 students+ 1 teacher</b></p> <p>The summer of 2012 saw a group of thirty students from India, Oman and Jordan at the annual Round Square Regional Service Project, South Asia held at the Doon School, Dehradun. Ten days worth of backbreaking physical labour in the two villages of Katapathar and Fatehpur yielded rich dividends in the form of new friends, honed leadership skills and finely calibrated sensitivity towards the less privileged in this world. Students worked for three days at each of these villages aiming to improve infrastructure as well educational facilities.</p> <p>At Katapathar, the work was of two-fold: teaching and physical labour. One group of students took over the jobs of the teachers of the village school for ten days. During this time, the teachers were taken to a nearby International School for training. The other group toiled to clear a large piece of land for a children's playground as there was nothing but a school building at Katapathar. At Fatehpur, students built the first floor of a 'community center' for the villagers. The trip was a lesson on leadership and service and about physical rigour and mental verve. It taught them the wisdom of working in groups, and the satisfaction that can be gleaned from working for the less privileged.</p> <p><b>Annual Round Square International Service Project<br/>Ladakh 'RSIS' Service Project</b><br/>8th July -1st August 2012<br/>2 Year 12 students</p> <p>Purav Shah and Shivam Jumani from class 12 attended the RSIS project in Ladakh between the 8th of July and the 1st of August 2012. The service focussed on helping out the Lamdon Model School in Thiksey by</p> |

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|    |  | <p>building a lavatory and a store room. For most of the time, the students were lifting bricks, stacking them and binding them together with wet mud. However, they also took part in social service by teaching the students of the Lamdon Model School various things, ranging from perspective drawing and stone art to football and cricket. The adventurous part of the trip was the 5 day trek, which truly tested their endurance. Both were given a chance to be leaders on the project and interact with students from different cultures. It was a once in a life time experience, where they had fun, and also learnt a lot.</p>  |
| 5. | Has your school had any cultural, service or sporting contact with any other RS schools? | <p><b>His Royal Highness The Duke of York's Visit to Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai 2nd May 2012</b></p> <p>The meeting with The Duke of York truly was like none other, as the students got the rare opportunity to present Indian culture and traditions, and to showcase their own school with pride. The Head Boy &amp; Head Girl were among the first to welcome His Royal Highness to the school, who instantly connected with them by discussing their plans for higher education, especially in the UK. The Duke of York then met with Mrs. Nita Ambani the Founder and Chairperson of the school along with the school leadership team to understand how its vision has been realized in a short span of nine years. The Year 11 students who he met with were truly inspired by His Royal Highness' invaluable advice. He encouraged the students to follow their aspirations and to embody perseverance and dedication. The Duke of York also had lively interactions with the Kindergarten students and answered the children's curious questions with warmth.</p> |
| 6. | <b>Any teacher exchanges?</b>  | <b>None</b>   |
| 7. | <b>Have you paid your subscription for 2011-2012 due in July/August 2011?</b>            | <b>Yes</b>  |
| 8. | <b>Any other information you would like to add</b>                                       | <p><b>DIAMUN (Dubai)<br/>Sustainability Through Development<br/>March 21-24, 2012</b></p> <p>12 students- Grade 8 +1 teacher</p> <p>Dubai International Academy hosted their fourth annual DIAMUN 2012 which specifically addressed</p>   |

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|  |  | <p>the issue of Sustainability Through Development during its three day conference. This year, there was an inclusion of two new committees -- The Global environment Summit and The League of Arab States. The conference attracted over 600 students from 40 schools all over the world.</p> <p><b>RS Primary Core: Celebrating the world's biggest democracy on Independence Day</b></p> <p>Children of the primary Round Square core group celebrated the world's biggest democracy on Independence Day by putting together a display using the Indian tricolours and expressed their patriotism through their writings. Each child wrote about how they would contribute to the future of the country and help make a difference. Their ideas were discussed and debated during the core session. It was fascinating and heartening to note that despite their tender age, they could think about contributing towards social concerns like eradicating poverty, boosting India's industrial strength, working towards a greener country and addressing political problems of India.</p> <p><b>IAYP Camp : Know Thyself</b></p> <p>A central component of Socrates' philosophy was "Know Thyself" and the IAYP camp is a place where one can translate this maxim into reality. The camp is a personal challenge and a testing ground for one's reserves of perseverance, tenacity and determination to conquer fears. It forms a part of the adventure aspect of the CAS component of the IBDP and exposes students to a variety of adventurous and outdoor activities over a 3-4 day period. These activities included rock climbing, running, rope and net climbing as well as trekking in the night.</p> <p><b>Ice Spice at Les Elfes: Ski Trip, Verbier<br/>March 2102<br/>27 Students + 3 Teachers</b></p> <p>Verbier in Switzerland is synonymous with panache and fun filled atmosphere but most importantly for its long tradition of ski resorts. Jagged and stunning snow filled peaks and the adrenaline rush of skiing along their slopes awaited the 27 students and 3 teachers who participated at the Les Elfes Skiing Camp in</p> |
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|  |  | <p>Verbier, Switzerland in March 2102. The Skiing Activity was for 6 ½ to 7 hours every day and the intensity was as per the level of skiing skill and general fitness of the students. There were 5 to 8 students per instructor and Les elves employed two batches of fabulous instructors! One batch taught the children skiing / snowboarding while the other batch taught the children ice skating, swimming, night skiing, night trekking and team building games. Despite the rigour involved in skiing and the bleary-eyed morning, we learned to value time with Swiss precision (banking hours, mobile phone hours, no meal served till the whole Indian team was not present at the Dining room or if the dining hours were not observed).</p> <p><b>Football Tournament, Lintz (Austria)</b><br/><b>July 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b><br/><b>12 Students + 2 Teachers</b></p> <p>Dais students had a chance to showcase their agility and endurance to an international crowd by participating in the Football competition organised by KOMM MIT at Lintz in Austria. A week of rigorous practise and nail-biting games with students from Austria, Germany, Italy and Romania ensured that the group adrenaline was always high! The DAIS team were runners up of the competition losing out to Germany in the finals. The highlight of the trip was the confidence that this competition gave them in their skills and the tensile strength of not crumbling under pressure. However, the trip was not only about team spirit and tenacity; evenings were dedicated to enthusiastic interaction amongst the different groups and entertainment. And of course, the must-see sightseeing that Austria has to offer wrapped up the trip on a more indolent note.</p> |
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