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ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND INCLUSION FOR ALL

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PRESTIGIOUS
SCHOOL
OF THE
YEAR 2021
NORTH INDIA

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PRESENTS



TO

**ST. JOHN'S
HIGH SCHOOL**

Sector 26, Chandigarh

FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS

PRESTIGIOUS
**SCHOOL OF
THE YEAR 2021**
(NORTH INDIA)



Monica Pallavi J
Managing Editor



ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND INCLUSION FOR ALL

“School is our second home!” This beautiful statement is not just a cliché at St. John's. Indeed, the school feels like home and the faculty tries to be your family. It is a safe haven that stands by you at your darkest times, understands every bit of your life, and helps you fly high from the grounds. They become a family in the true sense by visiting the houses of the students, especially the economically weaker kids. It stands for close connection, personal attention, and extra care to understand the root of any problem that is leading to a downfall in the child's performance.



Evidently, SJHS focuses on well-being; it plays a critical role in a child's cognitive, psychological, physical, spiritual, and sociological development. Marching ahead on the path of nurturing confident, responsible, curious, and creative learners,

the school doesn't push you into the mindless rat race of the world; but helps you figure out your potential and unleash talents from within.

All the way since 1959, St. John's has been focusing on education that is inclusive,

unbiased, enriching, and whatnot! Are you still wondering why SJHS is special? Why is it a trusted, respected, and preferred destination for education in Chandigarh? The below snippets will answer all your queries. Scopup presents



these information-packed excerpts about St. John's High School, its educational philosophy, and more from an exclusive conversation with the Principal – Kavita C. Das.

WHAT IS THE CORE OBJECTIVE OF ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL? WHAT MEASURES ARE YOU TAKING TO ENSURE THAT THE OBJECTIVE IS MET EFFECTIVELY?

In this 21st Century, we feel moved by Edmund Rice to promote among all children experiencing systematic and other forms of oppression, the freedom to celebrate both, their unique gifts in creative life giving-ways as well as the glory of their essential relationship with the universe as their home.



KAVITA CHATTERJEE DAS, PRINCIPAL, SJHS

A teacher one would aspire to be and a leader one would look up to. Kavita Chatterjee Das carries an extensive experience of 3 decades in education. She began her teaching profession in St. Columba's School, New Delhi in 1985 and joined St. John's in 1997. She was appointed as the respected principal of the school in 2007. Kavita has always fought for justice and fostered an unbiased education. From sports to facilities to eco-friendly practices and more, her contribution to St. John's progress has been far and beyond. Here are a few from the long list of the school's milestones under her guidance.

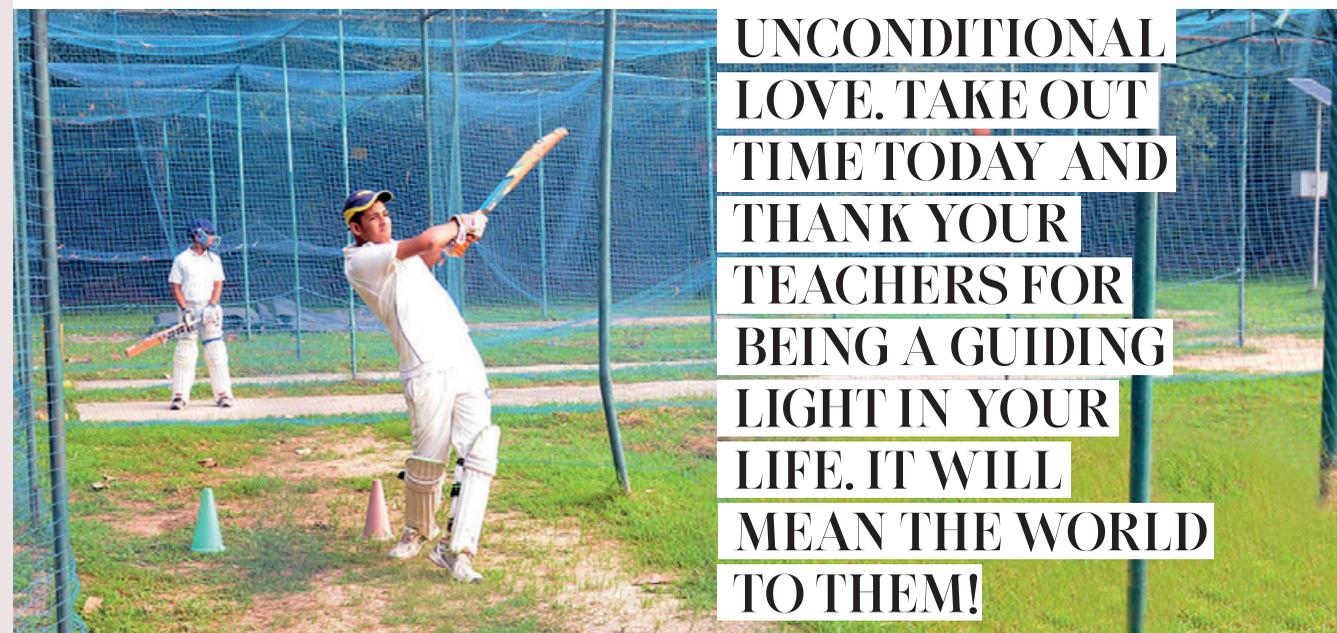
- Ranked no. 1 in India by the Education World School Rankings in 2020.
- Received an award of Appreciation from the Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights for the KINDNESS TREE for being a child-friendly initiative.
- Recognized and awarded as an Earth Day school, ONE of the six in the country by earthday.org which is an International body (2020-21).
- Declared the top school in India in the Boys day school category by the Education World Rankings 2020.
- Received Solar School Award by the UT administration's Technology Promotion Society (2021).
- Declared as one of the TOP 3 Best CBSE schools in Chandigarh by the ThreeBestRated organization (2021).

To this end, we recognize our need to grow in a sister/brotherliness that reflects our multi-cultural milieu. In that attitude, we facilitate, empower and collaborate with others to challenge the existing educational system which binds and exploits our children, thus awakening in them the joy of being true children of a loving God. St. John's strives to provide an INCLUSIVE environment to its children with several initiatives.

SHARE AN INSPIRATIONAL CASE STUDY OF HOW YOU COULD TRANSFORM STUDENT(S) AND BESTOW A BRIGHT FUTURE TO THEM.

My children are my pride and every life we are able to touch is a blessing. One story that brings tears of happiness is the story of Vikas. Vikas was a child from the EWS (category). He was a hard-working boy and accepted challenges with courage. Vikas's father was a vegetable vendor. I remember when he was appearing for

TEACHING IS UNFORTUNATELY AN UNDERRATED PROFESSION BUT I STRONGLY FEEL THAT IF IT WASN'T FOR MY TEACHERS, I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY. I EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO ALL MY TEACHERS FOR THEIR SELFLESS AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. TAKE OUT TIME TODAY AND THANK YOUR TEACHERS FOR BEING A GUIDING LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE. IT WILL MEAN THE WORLD TO THEM!







THE TEACHER LOOKS AFTER THEIR OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHICH INCLUDES ACADEMICS, CO-CHOLASTIC, VALUE EDUCATION, AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD



his Board exams, his father was extremely ill and was hospitalized. This boy would spend his days in school and nights in the hospital. My teachers went beyond their call of duty and helped him even when it was a late-night call for help. Our boy needed us and the school stood by him.... prayed for his father's well-being and did everything in our capacity to help Vikas sit for his Board exams. He passed the exams with flying colors and made his Alma Mater proud.

Today, Vikas is a registered Chartered Accountant and a proud father. He once came

on his scooter and told me that next time he will come in his own car. It was no surprise to me when recently he came in his own car to meet me. A boy with his kind of dedication and courage can achieve the impossible. I told Vikas that he is an inspiration to those who think that having less in life is an excuse for them to blame others for their failures. He is a living example of courage and determination.

Vikas is now mentoring children in our school and inspiring them to dream because only when you dream is when you create a path to achieve that dream.



ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, BOLLYWOOD ACTOR

It gives me immense pleasure to write a few words about Mrs. Kavita Chatterjee Das, Principal of St. John's High School, Chandigarh. At the time when I was in school, Mrs. Das taught the senior most class of the school English — Class 10.

It is rare for a student to get a teacher like her, who is so passionate about her subject and at the same time extremely knowledgeable. She has the wonderful ability to engage the entire class in her lectures. Her vibrant smile always lit up the class with joy and fun.

I had the pleasure of participating in the Musical put up by the school — Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat. It was an experience of a lifetime to be a part of the musical. Her enthusiasm, her patience, her readiness to explain each and every thing in detail to each one of us, made acting so much easier. She managed the backstage arrangements with ease and ensured we boys were always ready for our entrances on time!

I would like to thank her for all the extra efforts and time she invested into making our future better.



PARENT'S TESTIMONIAL

DR. KANWALPREET, ASST. PROFESSOR, D.A.V. COLLEGE

It is indeed an honour to write a testimonial for Principal Mrs. Kavita C. Das, who needs no introduction as her work coupled with her vision speak volumes about her work. Mrs. Kavita Das is an educationist not only by profession but because she feels, and I agree, it is her calling. She is, undoubtedly, an asset to the great institution, St. John's High School, Sector-26, Chandigarh. Her eagerness, child-like enthusiasm and will to learn even from her boys, often, make me gaze at her in awe. I have seen her listen to the boy's grievances, which might seem frivolous to a bystander, very seriously. She is all ears where her students are concerned. Her ability to solve problems of any magnitude is commendable.

Her will to serve and her efforts to make the society a better place is praise worthy. Students from the economically weaker sections are as dear to her as those who come from affluent families. There is no discrimination for they are her students, her boys. She is a fine blend of discipline and being simply friendly. As she walks the corridors of the school, she ensures discipline but at the

same time she does not forget to give a reassuring smile to those who need it. She is a role model for many and she tries to pass on her values of generosity, compassion and love to her students.

And like a true captain of the ship, she has managed to pass on these values and very healthy work ethics to her teachers who work like her, in clock-work precision. She has encouraged her colleagues to be considerate and caring towards their wards. And that is why even in these days of Pandemic, the teachers of St. John's have maintained their link with their boys.

Mrs. Kavita Das believes studies are important but so are extracurricular activities. And when some of her boys suggested that the school should adopt the national anthem in the manner rendition by the deaf and dumb, she was quick to honour her boy's request. When a few others came up with the idea of a 'Fistful of Rice', she was quick to include it too. Her readiness and optimism encourages everyone, parents, students and her teaching as well as the non-teaching staff to approach

her. The 'Cornucopia Fridge', 'Foster Parenting' are other ideas that have attracted the attention of one and all.

As a parent, I am indebted to her for helping my older son, Tejeshwar Singh Baidwan, tide over a very difficult time of his life. She never gave up on him, even when I did. She counselled me, showed me his strengths and sent with a smile from her office. Thanks to her, he is a strapping, young, confident man ready to take on the world. My belief in God and the goodness of human beings would be reaffirmed every time I stepped out of her not-at-all-imposing office. It was without any doubt that I sent my younger son, Sachvir, to her care again. My younger one is just the opposite of the older one. He was a little nervous, a little shy and very insecure when he stepped into St. John's. Now he is a bright, confident kid who is very confident of his looks as well as his language.

I wish Mrs. Kavita C. Das well in life. She is not only a great teacher but a great human being. The society has hope till we have teachers like her to guide the future citizens.



WHAT IS YOUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING?

The purpose of my existence is rooted in my spiritual journey of teaching and learning. I believe a teacher is a facilitator who nurtures the talents and inherent skills of the children by providing them with the right kind of environment. I draw from the educational philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. I see children as a blank canvas; unique beings, ready to explore the different facets of the world. I as a teacher have merely mediated in the

learning process of my children as a facilitator and helped them to explore the unbound potential hidden in each one of them so that they are able to paint the canvas of their lives thoughtfully and ultimately reach a level of self-actualization.

I believe that all theories of Psychology can be used in amalgamation to design an effective teaching-learning process. I choose age-appropriate activities for my students whilst also using modelling and observation as an effective technique. Understanding the impact of culture and agencies of socialization on the children helps me grasp individual differences in my classroom and I have used Multiple Intelligences to better teach my students. Inclusion is a way of life. As learning can never happen in isolation, I use an integrated approach to make learning impactful. My lessons examples and activities are based on day-to-day life experiences, using a multi-sensory teaching approach by blending different ICT tools and materials in the delivery of my lessons. My lesson plans include Interdisciplinary planning, as well as embedding different Sustainable Development Goals, Human Rights, Values, Duties and Brain Breaks. Every class ends with a reflective exercise/activity to build knowledge and embed values and compassion.

I see myself as someone who participates in the journey of her students as they construct their own knowledge and belief system. I firmly believe that every child has the ability to reach his full potential and NO CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO YOUNG TEACHERS IN OUR COUNTRY?

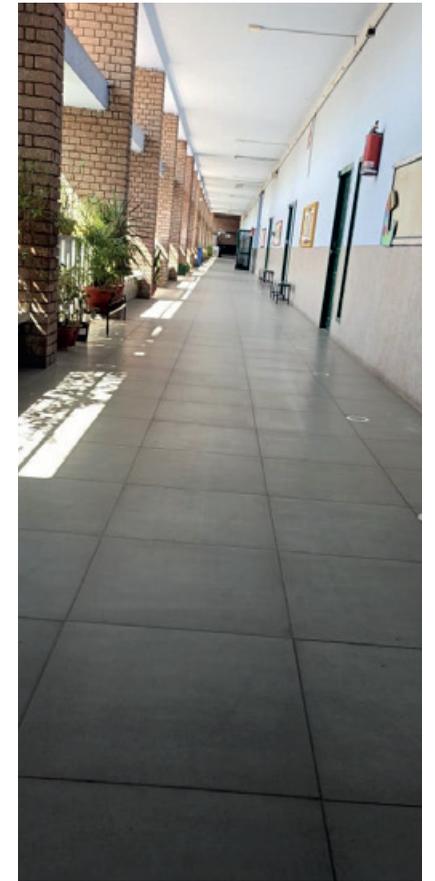
My request to all the aspiring teachers is that, work with your heart as teaching is not a job, it's a calling. We have the power to shape the future and make a difference. Use the opportunity to touch lives and bring hope to this world.

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG-TERM PLANS FOR THE INSTITUTION? HOW WILL YOUR STRATEGIC ROADMAP DRIVE CHANGE IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR?

Education is much more than just academics. I want to give children a system that celebrates not only achievers but the journey of each and every child because it is unique.

Children are the miracles of God and their well-being is our responsibility. The educational policies are focused

EVERY LESSON AT ST. JOHN'S HAS THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, HUMAN AND CHILD RIGHTS AS WELL AS OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES EMBEDDED INTO IT



GREATNESS QUOTIENT

Almost 300 children from the EDG fully included in St. John's from class kg to class 12: For the last 15 years (well before the RTE was even conceived of) the school has been actively incorporating Indradhanush children, (i.e. children belonging to the Economically weaker section) as equal shareholders in the school as they are very much a part of the regular school and are given every right and privilege that they deserve to have as members of the St. John's family.

THE PREP PROGRAMME:

Enriches and helps children from the EWS background, to be integrated into the mainstream with ease. They, in turn, go home and teach their parents how to speak in English and correct them if they go wrong.

FOSTER PARENT PROGRAMME

- In a unique initiative that will go a long way in establishing a rapport between the teachers and the students from the Economically Disadvantaged Group, every teacher has adopted two EDG students as her sons in school.
 - The teacher looks after their overall performance which includes academics, co-scholastic, value education, and personality development of the child.
 - Teachers also visit their homes voluntarily to develop a comfort level with the families of the EDG students by showing concern and making an effort to understand them so that we can render help in the best possible manner whilst also developing a great bond between the teacher and the student.
 - It has been observed that as per the feedback of the teachers, these visits are proving to be a great eye-opener for all of us.
- As the first few years of the life of the child are very important in the process of development, intervention at a young age helps a great deal for 'children at risk' as they are designed to mitigate the factors

that place children at risk of poor outcomes. The school provides early intervention, putting Children with special needs on a special education programme as per their specific needs, trying to bridge the gap in learning.

A very special effort is made by the teachers in the junior school wherein they make worksheets for the children and the students with special needs are given the same worksheets but with smiles on certain questions to identify these that need to be attempted by these children as per their intelligence level. This helps maintain their dignity and they feel equal in the class.

GIRL INDIA PROJECT

The only boy's school under this project in association with Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CCPCR) and Yuvsatta (an NGO), St. John's has been partnered with Govt. Middle School, Bapu Dham. Girls from GMS have got along with the boys of class 7 of St. John's and have organized/ conducted many activities. Both the schools witnessed the first of its kind in their schools, the PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, SANSAD 2021. Students from both schools displayed exceptional oratory skills.

Johnians have been conducting academic as well as co-curricular classes for the girls at GMS, Bapu Dham under the able guidance of their teachers. Children made eco-friendly rakhis, learned about health and hygiene, performed yoga, performed Science experiments, etc.

RANVIJAY AWARD (AWARD FOR THE NICEST BOY OF THE SCHOOL)

The Ranvijay award teaches children to be humble and kind to others as it is very important to be a good human being.

Every lesson has the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Human and Child Rights as well as our Constitutional duties embedded into it.



on 21st-century skills and are subconsciously ignoring human values and ethics. It is very important for children to become good human beings to bring peace and prosperity to this world.

I wish to inculcate the importance of values, duties, and community service.... and that is my long-term plan ALWAYS! This dream can become a reality by small efforts like creating opportunities for children to partner with each other, become mentors, give

to society and participate in activities promoting justice and advocacy. We introduce at least ONE new initiative every year to add to the exposure to our boys. Our community outreach programme is one of its kind where each class is associated with an NGO or an institution like the Institute for the Speech and Audio Impaired, the Govt. Rehabilitation Institute for the Intellectually Disabled, the Institute for the Visually impaired, etc. Children should be given the responsibility to design

their own programmes and believe me, their creativity and approach will surprise you!

Inclusion is already a way of life in St. John's and the most recent strategy is to make Cooperative Learning through activity-based teaching the core of learning in the school.

When you have the satisfaction of giving wings to your children to fly high and yet stay rooted to their core values of humility, justice, compassion, and love....you have made a difference. **S**