



GICC students win prizes in Bharatham 2012



Considered as a national level Bharathanatyam dance competition, Bharatham, now in its 6th year, is organized by Toa Payoh West CC.

GICC students have not only participated but won accolades and appreciation in Bharatham since the very first year. In 2012, seven GICC students – **Subiksha Ganesan, Adithi Bhat, Vidisha Ahire, Akshara Maran, Vaishalee Rajaraman, Abishek Balamurugan and Simrita Agrawal** qualified for the finals. Teachers Ms Atira, Ms Srilakshmi and Ms Shobinya relentlessly trained these

students to compete with various dancers from different cultural centres of Singapore. The most awaited moment, the finals of Bharatham 2012 was on 14th April at the hall of Toa Payoh West CC which was packed to capacity. The Guest of Honour for the occasion was Member of Parliament, Mr Hri Kumar Nair. There were three judges each from India, Singapore and Malaysia to judge the finals. The judges had a tough time deciding the winners as all participants displayed great virtuosity and talent. Later, the judges gave feedback to each participant after their performance. The youngest contestant at the competition was GICC student Adithi Bhat. One of the judges was so moved that Adithi received special blessings after her mesmerizing performance.

It was a proud moment for GICC when the results were announced. In category A – 7 to 11 years, the top 3 positions were bagged by GICC students. In category B – 12 to 17 years, GICC bagged the 3rd and 4th places. Amidst thunderous applause from an appreciative audience, the winners received trophies and won cash for their positions. The prizes were given by Mr Hri Kumar Nair.

**Category A: Subiksha Ganesan- First place
Aditi Bhat- Second place
Vidisha Ahire- Third place**

**Category B: Abishek Balamurugan and Simrita Agrawal received consolation prizes
Akshara Maran- Third place
Vaishalee Rajaraman - Fourth place**



Vaishalee Rajaraman of Class 11A:

"As a student of Ms Sri Lakshmi Arun, I participated in this prestigious competition for the third time. For Bharatham 2012, our practice began with the semi finals. Our teachers Ms Srilakshmi Arun, Ms Athira Venugopal and Ms Shobhinya Karthikeyan had choreographed our dances according to our strengths with complex sequences and graceful poses. But our greatest challenge was balancing academics and cultural pursuits. I was appearing in my Class 10 board exams simultaneously! After being selected in the semi finals, seven GICC students including myself were competing in two categories with nine finalists in each category. We improved and polished our items and waited for the day. At the competition, we all performed extremely well and won prizes. The valuable comments and encouraging words from the judges will help us to identify the areas where we need to improve. Bharatham was a wonderful event and a memorable moment for all the winners and GICC!"

Subiksha Ganesan, Class 6C, Winner of Bharatham 2012:

"The word 'Bharatham' reminds me of our nation, India and reflects the meaning of 'The dance of India', Bharatanatyam. This year was my third year of participation, and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in it all these 3 years. There are about 40-60 semi - finalists each year, and the judges have a hard time selecting only 16 to 18 of them for the finals in different categories based on age groups. For me Bharatham is not a competition, it is a wonderful stage to showcase and improve my talent. I would like to encourage my fellow schoolmates who learn dance to come forward and discover their potential through such opportunities."

PERFORMING ARTS

Carnatic Vocal
Hindustani Vocal
Bharathanatyam
Odissi
Kathak
Contemporary Dance
Indian Keyboard
Mridangam
Tabla
Violin

LANGUAGES

Hindi
Sanskrit
Malayalam
French
Mandarin
Japanese

SPORTS AND GAMES

Cricket
Gymnastics
TaeKwonDo
Tennis

YOGA

Hatha Yoga

FINE ARTS

Visual Arts
Single Stroke Painting
Rangoli

DRAMA AND PRODUCTION

Speech and Drama
Shloka Chanting
Public Speaking