

Team DPS Gurgaon bagged first place in the competitive category of the International Dance Festival held at Bulgaria. A team of twenty one students participated in the prestigious event. It was an enriching experience for the participants who were acquainted with culture and traditions of the host country. Representing India and performing on an international stage was a dream come true for the budding dancers of the school. The rich tradition of Indian classical and folk dances presented by the students of the school earned great accolades from all the participating countries. The team performed in two different cities, Dupnista and Haskovo. Interviews with our students were aired on national television in Bulgaria. Teachers accompanying the team interacted with officials from other teams over a lavish dinner organised by the Mayor of the host city. The festival came to a close with children from all countries dancing together to spread the message of global unity and peace.

Two days of sightseeing which followed the festival were a unique and fun-filled experience. The students visited noted tourist destinations in three different cities across the country. Ancient churches, parliament house of Bulgaria, dolphin park, beaches on the Black Sea, wax museum and handicrafts village were a visual treat. Walking through the streets of Bulgaria and shopping for souvenirs, the team could feel the pulse of the place. The fond memories of the trip are etched forever in the minds of the students and teachers alike.

Comments of teachers

Bulgaria Festival goes down memory lane as a tremendous learning experience for all the participants. The rare opportunity to represent India on an international stage brought with it a sense of pride as well as responsibility. However our students proved to be worthy ambassadors of the nation and bagged the first place in the competition. It was not just their talent that won hearts there. Their amenable approach towards everyone was resulted in instant rapport with students from other countries. Getting to know a different culture and way of life was indeed educating.

Music is the only universal language which can unite the entire world and create peace and harmony. Therefore such festivals are important for our students. Students of DPS Gurgaon went to Bulgaria as a team but came back as a big family. The bonding that developed between the members of the group is worth treasuring! **(Mukta Rai, Anu Saxena and Satish Kumar)**

Comments of parents

It was an awesome experience for the children, packed with warmth, care, detail, fun. Teachers have been like foster parents. For Soniksha and for me, an unforgettable memorable formal end to her schooling at DPS Gurgaon. Couldn't have been better. She is all that she is, thanks to all that she got from the school. So thanks a lot to all the teachers and all the school mates who made Bulgaria cast in stone in her mind and heart! **(Soniksha Venkatesh's mother)**

Though words are not enough, I am still making an attempt to thank all the teachers and fellow peers for making the journey safe and enjoyable for Srishti. Thanks so much! **(Srishti Bhattacharya's mother)**



