THE LIGHTHOUSE

Guiding ideas, inspiring futures

THE INDIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

(A.Y. 2026-27)

Edition 4

Cultural Exchange and Global Awareness Council

Shaping tomorrow, one council at a time

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Preface

The Student Council was created to give students a space to lead, collaborate and bring meaningful ideas to life. Each council, whether focused on sustainability, media, technology, innovation, sports, reading, or inclusivity, contributes its own strengths while working toward a shared goal of improving our school community. This magazine offers a clear look at their plans, goals and roadmaps, giving you a sense of what each council stands for and what they hope to achieve in the months ahead.

Vision and Mission

Our Vision

To create opportunities for students to explore different cultures, traditions and global perspectives. Through student-led activities and cultural exchange, we aim to encourage curiosity, respect and a stronger understanding of the world around us.





Our Mission

We envision a school community where cultural differences are celebrated, global issues are understood and students feel confident connecting with people and perspectives beyond their own.

Working Together

The CEGA Council works with students, teachers and fellow councils to organize initiatives that celebrate our multicultural school community and encourage students to become more aware, respectful and responsible global citizens.

Our Approach

We bring global learning beyond the classroom through cultural celebrations, interactive activities, discussions and creative experiences that make discovering the world engaging and meaningful.

The rollout

IIS MUN

'Where the World Meets,' beautifully captures the spirit of this IIS-MUN conference. Because when the world meets, it is not our differences that define us ; it is our ability to listen, understand, collaborate and find common ground for solutions.





TOMODACHI

6,000 miles apart, but close to the heart. We are proud to continue the TOMODACHI International Exchange Program for the third year in a row!

SOUQ AL USRA

The Arabic Heritage Walk: learners, alongside their parents and teachers, transformed our campus into a vibrant celebration of the UAE's identity. Engaging stations showcased Emirati culture through calligraphy, games, artefacts, and cuisine.



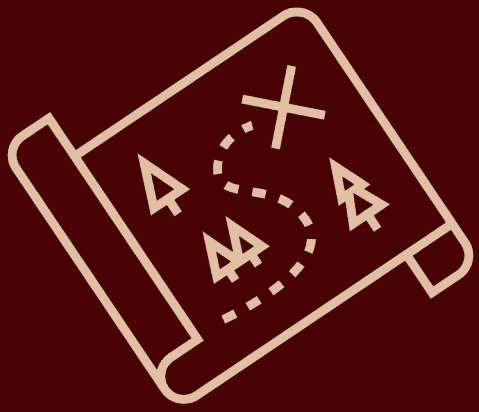
Roadmap

CONNECT



Bring Cultures Together
Create opportunities for students to share their own cultures, interact across backgrounds and learn from one another.

DISCOVER



Explore Our World
Introduce students to different countries, cultures, traditions and perspectives through engaging cultural spotlights and awareness activities.

ENGAGE

Think Globally
Encourage conversations about global events, international issues and shared challenges, helping students become more informed and open-minded.

Collab Crew

Within Our Council

CEGA works with other student councils and school teams to make cultural and global awareness activities more engaging. Through shared initiatives, students can combine creativity, communication and cultural learning to reach a wider section of the school community.

Connecting with other Schools

Cultural exchange becomes more meaningful when students interact beyond their own school. CEGA can collaborate with students from other schools through cultural programs, competitions, discussions and exchange activities, giving students an opportunity to share their own culture while discovering different perspectives.



Our Global Community

One of CEGA's greatest strengths is the diversity already present within our school. Students, teachers and families from different cultural backgrounds can contribute their traditions, languages, stories and experiences, turning our own school community into a space for meaningful cultural exchange.

Beyond the Classroom

CEGA aims to extend global learning beyond textbooks through interaction with cultural organizations, community groups and other external partners. Such opportunities can expose students to authentic traditions, experiences and perspectives from different parts of the world.

Here we are S.A.F.E.E.

Student Advocates for Empowered Choices and Environment

Where the World Meets, Empowerment begins

The recent **IIS MUN – Where the World Meets** was more than a platform for debating global issues. It was a journey through different cultures, perspectives, attitudes, and shared experiences. As students represented countries and listened to diverse voices, they discovered that while cultures may differ, many challenges faced by young people are universal.

Through cultural exchange and global awareness, students learned that **understanding comes before judgement**. Whether discussing wellbeing, peer pressure, mental health, vaping, smoking or substance use, they recognized that young people everywhere benefit from accurate information, supportive friendships, safe environments, and the confidence to make informed choices.

The MUN experience also highlighted the power of **peer influence, speaking up, and respectful dialogue**. By sharing ideas, challenging assumptions, and collaborating across cultures, students developed the courage to advocate for positive change.

These lessons connect strongly with **SAFEE Advocacy**, reminding us that every student has a voice. By making informed choices, supporting one another, and promoting healthy lifestyles, young people can become wellbeing ambassadors in their own communities.

As the world met at IIS MUN, students learned an important lesson:

‘ Global citizenship is not only about understanding the world, but also about making responsible choices that create a safer, healthier future for all ’.

Did You Know?

UAE - Where culture meets

Rooted in Emirati values and enriched by the presence of over 200 nationalities, the UAE fosters diversity, tolerance, and global collaboration while empowering young learners to explore the world through increased opportunities for international travel, cultural exchange, and global education.

Bharat - Unity in Diversity

India is home to remarkable cultural and linguistic diversity. Its Constitution recognizes **22 scheduled languages**, while traditions, cuisines, clothing, art and festivals vary greatly across different regions. This diversity has made the idea of “unity in diversity” closely associated with India's cultural identity.

World Harmony Through Culture

Across the world, cultures preserve unique ways of connecting people. In New Zealand, Māori traditions such as the hongi reflect ideas of welcome and connection; in Japan, bowing can communicate respect; and in Thailand, the Wai is a traditional gesture used when greeting others. Different customs, but a shared purpose — showing respect and building human connection.

From our school to your home

H&S and Wellbeing Communication to parents

ONE TRADITION

Ask someone at home about a tradition your family follows and discover where it came from or why it is important.



ONE STORY

Find a family story, childhood memory, saying or experience that reflects the place or culture your family comes from.



ONE TREASURE

Choose an object with cultural meaning — perhaps a photograph, recipe, piece of clothing, book, artwork or family keepsake — and learn the story behind it.

TURN THE TABLES

Now choose **one culture different from your own** and discover one tradition or idea from it that surprised or interested your family.
The goal isn't just to learn *about* another culture. It's to notice what is **different, what is shared, and what we can learn from one another.**

CEGA CONVERSATION STARTER

At dinner tonight, ask:
"If we could introduce someone from another part of the world to ONE part of our culture, what would we choose — and why?"

Brain Buzz

CULTURAL CODEBREAKER.

Think you know the world? Crack the code.

Identify the country described by each clue. Once you have all seven answers, take the first letter from each country to reveal a 7-letter word that connects people.

1.Home to Angkor Wat, one of the world's most famous archaeological sites and a symbol of Khmer cultural heritage.
2. The historic city of Samarkand and its Registan square are among this country's most famous cultural landmarks.
3.Known for the Plain of Jars, a mysterious archaeological landscape spread across its mountainous regions.
4.This North African country is home to the ancient ruins of Carthage and has a rich blend of Arab, Berber and Mediterranean influences.
5.Its capital, Montevideo, is strongly associated with candombe, a musical and cultural tradition with African roots.
6. This East African country is known for Imigongo, a distinctive traditional art form made using cow dung and natural pigments.
7. Often associated with the origins of coffee, this country has a distinctive traditional coffee ceremony that plays an important social and cultural role.

FINAL CODE

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

What shapes our traditions, values, language, and way of life?

No Googling....Your global knowledge is on trial.
Scan the QR Code to participate .

The Makers

The Team Behind This

This edition of the Cultural Exchange & Global Awareness Council E-Magazine was brought to life through the ideas, creativity and efforts of our council members and Grade Representatives. Together, we have worked to create a space that encourages students to explore cultures, understand different perspectives and become more globally aware.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Mohita Parwani for her support and contribution in bringing this edition to life, as well as
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With Gratitude

To every student, representative and contributor who shared their ideas, experiences and creativity with us — thank you for helping us celebrate the many cultures and perspectives that make our school community unique.

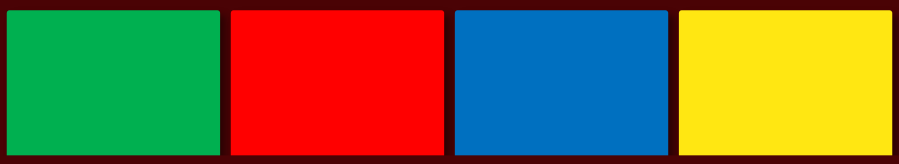
What's Next

Our cultural journey doesn't end here. Look out for the next edition as we continue discovering new cultures, exploring global perspectives and finding more ways to connect our school with the world.

From celebrating diverse cultures to competing as one team, sports turn global awareness into action and unity.

Stay tuned for our Edition 5





‘Knowledge is power’

