

The Danube meets The Ganges

Cultural Exchange Programme

Hungary-India



20th September'14- 1st October'14



About SMS

The students of SMS are trained to handle curricular and co-curricular activities simultaneously. Care is taken to instill self-discipline in their receptive minds. They are schooled to become responsible leaders with a Commitment to society. Under the canopy of the school motto “Loyalty, Truth and Honor”, the students, the staff and the management of St. Mark’s endeavor not only to enable students to compete with others for a place in the professional outlets, but also imbue them with social Awareness, pride in their rich cultural heritage and a sense of Responsibility towards the nation.



Global Program

The SMS Global Program is an initiative by the school to equip our students with a global perspective. The educational experiences offered in this program in the context of real world issues will widen their horizons and enrich their lives which will stand them in good stead.

St. Mark's School believes in giving learning opportunities beyond geographical boundaries which allow our students to network with their peers overseas and make connections with what they have learnt in the classroom with the real world. We have global collaboration with many institutions such as **face to faith, AEC, GVC, iEarn, Epals**. As a result we have a strong global bond.

Cultural Exchange Program

Student exchange programs are educational and cultural opportunities for the students of SMS.

During such exchange programs, students live with host families where they are exposed to the host country's culture and language. Not only the academic and social development of the individual student plays a significant role in exchange programs, but also the foreign policy interest of each country that sends or receives exchange students. Exchange programs present a golden opportunity for students to visit and live in different countries and gain crucial experiences and skills for their later careers. Such programs help in building relationships and strong bonds with students abroad. Cultural Exchange Programs bring schools and classrooms together and bring in united strength into the students that benefit humanity.

About



The school has been functioning in a building of art nouveau overlooking the Town Park since 1902. It was named after first Hungarian king, St. Istvan in 1921. The school is maintained by the local council of Zuglo, and the work of our highly qualified teacher staff was awarded with a "Zuglo Commemorative Medal" in 1999.

Seven hundred students attend the school per year, many of them have outstanding results in maths and science subjects. Special maths classes for students of 14 to 18 started in 1960 and have been changed into a 6 grade class since 1992. From 1993 science classes as well as IT classes have been working side by side however since 1998 for students of 12 to 18.

The School's objective is to educate the students to become adults who have the need for mental as well as moral values achieved by lifelong learning.



About



Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium was founded by Batthyany in Nagykanizsa, Hungary. Apart from its beautiful school building, it has a great history. The school is 250 years old and has a record about all its students. The school has its own museum inside the campus and along with that a peculiar time capsule which stores the record and history of the school and a huge library having more than 40,000 books. The school also hosts an AFS student each year from neighboring countries like Turkey. The building has beautifully adorned walls designed by the ex-students. The unique ideas we witnessed there, are quite unforgettable.



The 250 years old BLG. It was founded by Batthyany himself.



The unique idea of Time Capsule preserving the old school records.

Trip OBJECTIVES

The objective of this trip is:

- To deepen student's knowledge and appreciation of the culture of Hungary through exposure and education to the Hungarian culture.
- At the same time, this exchange programme also allows students to appreciate the cultural diversity of Hungary. .
- The students will also learn more about the Hungarian lifestyle and education system by staying in Hungarian homes and attending classes with their Hungarian counterparts.

St. Mark's Sr. Sec. Public School, Meera Bagh hopes that our long term partnership with Szent István Gimnazium & Batthyany Lajos Grammar School, Nagykanizsa, Hungary will be strengthened by our visit.

Hungarians in INDIA

A nine member student delegation along with two teachers Ms. Katalin & Ms. Klara from Szent Istvan Gimnazium, Budapest, Hungary visited our school from 12 April to 22 April 2014. The delegation stayed with their Indian host buddies and got an insight into the lifestyle of India. They also attended classes and exchanged notes on lifestyle in Hungary with the Indian students. A Delhi tour was organised for them. Also a visit to the historical cities of Agra and Jaipur was planned. Seeing the great enthusiasm in our Hungarian friends to witness the Indian culture, we planned to take all of them to an Indian wedding so that they could get the real taste of Indian culture and tradition. The major highlight of this cultural exchange programme was our visit to the Embassy of Hungary for a very interesting interaction with the Ambassador H.E Dr. Janos Terenyi at the Embassy of Hungary, New Delhi.



Enjoying at a wedding with our Hungarian friends.



Delegates from Hungary with our Principal and the Hungarian Ambassador.

Day 1: 20th September 2014



A group of 13 students along with our teacher coordinator Ms. Geeta Rajan, Ms Ritika Anand our educational supervisor and our principal ma'am Mrs. Anjali Aggarwal and director Mr. Rahul Aggarwal set off for Hungary from the Indira Gandhi International Airport at 6:00 a.m and reached the Istanbul Airport. From there we had a connecting flight to Budapest, Hungary where we met our host buddies and their families. On that day some of us went to the Buda Castle, Pál-völgyi-cave, Three Board Mountain, Aqua Park , local market ,and other remarkable places with our host families. With boundless memories in our hearts and hope for a better tomorrow we all dozed off to sleep...



DAY 2: 21ST SEPTEMBER 2014

We started the day by visiting the ambassador of India to Hungary, H.E. Shri Malay Mishra. This was the major highlight of the exchange programme. Our Principal Ms. Anjali Aggarwal, Director of the school Mr. Rahul Aggarwal, Educational supervisor Ms. Ritika Anand, Global Coordinator Ms. Geeta Rajan, two teachers from Szent Istvan Gimnazium, Ms. Katalin & Ms. Klara along with three students from our school and their hosts were invited by the Indian ambassador, Mr Malay Mishra to India House. He gave us a very warm welcome. We had a brief discussion on the two countries; their culture, lifestyle, historical places, famous dishes and so on. Soon it was lunch time and we had Indian food together which was extremely delicious.



A formal exchange of Mementos.



A group picture with the Ambassador



At the Ambassador's Place

After an educational, interactive session with the Ambassador, we went to Visegrad for a bob ride. The bob-sleigh track was a thrilling experience with its 11 bends and 700 metre-long track. During the run we admired the Fellegvar, the Visegrad castle ruins. It was an adventurous and enjoyable time that we spent there.



Having fun on the bob ride.!

Few of us then went for shopping at Szentendre and admired the beauty of Lake Balaton.



Relaxing time

Day 3: 22nd September 2014

In the morning, everyone headed for the school with their host buddies and later we all went for the city tour of Budapest. In Szent Istevan Gimnazium, there were performances from both the schools. First, the students from their school presented a lovely cultural dance for all of us and after the formal exchange of mementoes between the dignitaries; a presentation on India was presented by our school. The much awaited Bhangra was then performed by all of us which received great appreciation by everyone. After seeing the school, all of us along with our hosts and teacher headed for the unforgettable city tour.



The exchange of mementos, strengthening the friendship between the two schools.



Its picture time in Szent Istevan Gimnazium



It's Bhangra time!



CITY TOUR

In the unforgettable city tour, we witnessed the beautiful Heroes' Square, The Opera House, St. Stephen's Basilica. We also attended an amazing Hungarian dance workshop and then at night, the heavenly Danube Cruise.



We are heading for the Budapest City tour!



Picture time at the Heroes' Square



The magnificent Heroes' Square and St. Stephen's Basilica.



Outside the enormous St. Stephen's Basilica..



Dancing to all the glory, enjoying to the fullest, at the Hungarian Dance Workshop!



Everyone enjoying the pleasant weather and the beauty of 'Duna'.



The most beautiful and the oldest – The Chain Bridge

Day 4: 25th September 2014



HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT— NIGHT VIEW FROM THE CRUISE

Sometimes we visit some places which makes us feel that ,”is it something true - so beautiful.” Some wonderful feelings like this arose when we entered this enormous and beautiful Hungarian parliament. During our visit we were given a guide, who gave us the information about the parliament. We not only enjoyed our visit there but also captured beautiful pictures.



And it was photography time –
Interior of the parliament..

Day 5: 24th September 2014

The Day started with all of us boarding the bus to VIENNA, AUSTRIA. It was a 3-4 hour journey. The drive was quite pleasant as we crossed many lush green landscapes and hills. We arrived there and went to a very beautiful place namely the SCHONBRUNN PALACE wherein Maria Theresia, a great European leader used to live. It has 1,441 rooms but, we were able to explore only 23 of them. There were many big gardens with a variety of flowers, we clicked a lot of pictures and left. Thereafter we saw the AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT, THE VIENNA STATE OPERA BUILDING and ST. PETER'S CHURCH, etc. we heard a lot of information about these places from our Hungarian friends who went along with us, it was interesting to know all about their history. After that we ate our food and bought their famous MOZART chocolates. Time passed by and then came the time to board the bus back to Budapest. This marked the end of our memorable day exploring the wonderful city.



Picture perfect!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



ENJOYING @
VIENNA!!!



ST. PETER'S CHURCH



AT SCHONBRUNN PALACE...

DAY 6: 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014

This was our last morning with our lovely hosts and host families in Budapest. We all got ready and went to the bus station to visit our next host families. It was indeed an emotional time for everyone because in just a short while everyone was so attached .and was just reluctant to leave. We knew that this friendship is going to last FOREVER !!



It was around 3-4 hours' drive from Budapest to Nagykanizsa . Everyone was excited at the same time as we were going to meet our new hosts. We finally reached Nagykanizsa, and saw our hosts and host families eagerly waiting for us . They gave us a warm welcome and then we went to our new homes with the new hosts and their families



Meeting our new hosts in Nagykanizsa

Day 7: 26th September 2014

In the morning we visited the school Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium with our hosts and Saw the beautiful school building. We had our lunch in the school canteen and also sang our national song 'Vande Matram' while taking a look at the class rooms



Mementos were exchanged by the dignities and a presentation was shown on our school and Culture .It was a good feeling experiencing their culture and language as well. We also met the Mayor of Nagykanizsa.



We performed Bhangra at Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium. Our performance was watched by a huge audience and it was appreciated and applauded by everyone.



Get, Set, Bhangra!

We also went for a Nagykanizsa city tour. Later we also experienced aerobics at the dance class



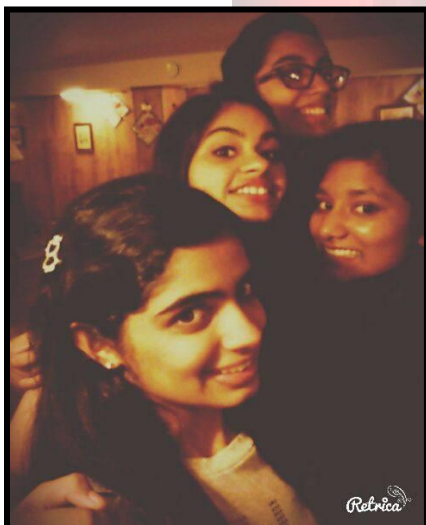
Beautiful Place, Beautiful People

Hungarian dance was organized by the school for the Indian delegation while the Indians taught Bhangra to the Hungarians,

It was a precious time spent together dancing on Bollywood and Hungarian songs



Hungarians performing BHANGRA!



Birthday Party

A birthday party was organized by the Hungarian twin host. The party was full of excitement and we enjoyed it a lot and also spent quality time together.

Day 8: 27th September 2014

We started our journey at 7:00 a.m. Our journey was around 4-5 hours long.

As soon as we reached Venice, we checked in into our hotel and took Ferry to PIAZZA SAN MARCO (Saint Mark's Square) which is the principal square of Venice, Italy.



After visiting SAINT MARK SQUARE we went for the lunch to an Italian restaurant. Then we headed towards the GONDOLA RIDE. This turned out to be the best experience.



Day 9: 28th September 2014

After a one day trip to Venice, it was now time for us to leave for Slovenia with lots of happy memories of Venice. Early in the morning after having breakfast we got ready to leave for Bled. After a drive of around 3.5 hours, we reached Bled. The hotel we stayed in was just opposite Lake Bled. In the afternoon, after having some rest we went over to explore the nearby places. First, we went to the Lake Bled Island by a boat. The scenic beauty of Lake Bled was overwhelming. The view of The Bled Castle from Lake Bled was a view to cherish.



Enjoying the Pletna Boat Ride at Lake Bled

Singing merrily and enjoying the pleasant atmosphere we reached Lake Bled Island situated amidst Lake Bled. The island had a church spire peeking out among its greenery. A long chain of stairs, wide area of beauty and a pleasant atmosphere were the main characteristics of the island.



***PICTURE
TIME...***



After coming back from the island, we all grasped some rest at the shore of the lake. We played a lot with swans and ducks there in the water and sighed a breath of relief from the joyful but an over-tight schedule we had been following for the last few days.

Finally, the beautiful evening came to an end and now we waited for the next day to come which was also our last day in Bled and Slovenia.

Day 10: 29th September 2014

After visiting the enchanting lake Bled yesterday, we all took a small toy train ride which went through the beautiful streets of Bled, letting the visitors witness its beauty from each and every angle. It was a magical place with a breathtaking view of Lake Bled. Afterwards, we all headed for the capital Ljubljana, where we had lunch in an Indian restaurant. We really enjoyed the delicious Indian food and visited nearby markets.



Enjoying in BLED



At CHURCH



Toy train ride in BLED..



After a long & tiring though fun filled journey, we reached our final destination Nagykanizsa, where our host partners were waiting for us at the bus station. Then, after visiting some local markets and nearby places with our hosts, we went back to their house.

DAY 11: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Finally the day arrived when we had to say goodbye to our dear friends from Nagykanizsa and fly back to India. Our joy was both sweet and sour ; sweet because we were about to take infinite memories back to India and sour because we were about to separate from our Hungarian friends.



Lake Balaton : MORNING VIEW..

In the morning, at about 7:00 a.m we all assembled at the bus stop and left for the splendid view of Lake Balaton which is the largest lake of Central Europe and is considered as one of the Hungary's most precious treasures.

Finally, we went to Budapest Airport ,Hungary to take the flight back home. Our first stop was Istanbul Airport before we landed at Delhi Airport on 1st October at 4:00 a.m.

This was the most beautiful trip of our life and will be remembered forever...

Feedback

From Our Hosts

Hungarian – SZERETUNK SHIVANGI <3

English – We love you Shivangi <3

Hungarian—NAGYON ORULUNK,HOGY MEGISMERHETTUNK
TE'GED 😊

English -- Its been a pleasure to meet you 😊

Hungarian —SOK-SOK PUSZI MAGYARORSZ'AGRO'L

English Lots of kisses from Hungary.

I thank god for creating such a lovely person in India and sending her to me . It has been a wonderful experience,you taught me alot of interesting things and made me visit so many places which even i didn't visit !! Side by side or miles apart, good friends are always close to the heart..!

-- TUNDI CZIRAKY (shivangi stuti's first host) (BUDAPEST)

From Our Host Parents

Jahnavi is a very nice and beautiful girl . Just like our second daughter in the family .Me and my daughter loved her and are very happy to meet her. If she can we will wait for her to come again .We found so many similarities and differences between us . It was very nice to meet her .

REBEKA FARKAS'S MOTHER

(Jahnavi seth's family)(NAGYKANIZSA)

From Our Parents

We, as parents are so proud of our child and even for every child who got such an opportunity in such a young age of going to a completely different nation and staying with a stranger family and learning about their culture and values and teaching them ours . We are happy that St. Marks gives exposure to the children and helps them to emerge as global citizens and to overcome their fears of staying alone without their family.. We would like to thank the school authorities and the host family that made my daughter comfortable and made her trip a wonderful experience.

Riya Nagpal's parents



From Our Principal's Desk (Mrs. Anjali Aggarwal)

The cultural exchange programme with the two schools in Hungary is very special to me for this is the first year that we initiated it and managed to implement the programme. We had our friends from Szent Istvan Gimnazium visiting us in April and we visited them in September. In spite of some cultural differences, there is a lot similar between the two countries and schools. I am happy that the students learnt so much about the river Danube and Ganges. I am also happy that my students visited the art museum in Nagkanizsa and learnt about the art done by the mother and daughter the Brunners. We are now looking forward to the visit by Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium.



From Our Director's Desk (Mr. Rahul Aggarwal)

It gives me great pleasure in watching my students interact with students from all across the world. At St. Mark's School, we believe in imparting international perspective to our students through online projects, summits, conferences and exchange programmes. The exchange programme with the two schools in Hungary – Szent Istvan Gimnazium and Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium was a wonderful learning experience as the delegates not only got an insight into the lifestyle and education of each other but also got an opportunity to interact with the then Ambassador of Hungary to India H.E. Dr. János Terényi and the Ambassador of India to Hungary, H.E. Mr. Malay Misra.

I am sure our schools will continue to work closely in more projects in the near future.



From Our Educational Supervisor (Mrs. Ritika Anand)

The exchange program with Szent Istvan Gimnazium school in Budapest, Hungary exposed our students to a different culture and provided an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of diversity. Our children participated in new and unique experiences beyond their own communities. All the teachers, specially Ms. Katalin, Ms. Klari, Mr. Peter and Mr. Zoltan and the host students left no stone unturned to host us with warm hospitality.

I got the opportunity to witness a Physics Class. The teacher taught the students in their native language, which I realised only after the class was over, reiterating the fact that Science has no language.

The interaction with H. E. Malay Mishra, Indian Ambassador to Hungary gave us a new vision of the entire cultural exchange programme.

From Szent Istvan Gimnazium's Teacher

Our visit to India was awesome! Everyone was excited about exploring another country and another lifestyle. Without our hosts and their and their family's kindness and love for us it would not have been possible to enjoy our trip that much. Taj Mahal and Amer Fort are just two examples of the breathtaking places we could discover. When the delegation from Saint Mark's School came to Hungary, everyone was excited and organized everything to be perfect. It was really good to meet our friends again after such a long time.. We want to say thank you to all of them for the really nice and joyful time we could spend together.

Ms .Katalin Nagy

From Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium's Teacher

Namaste!

I must tell you that I personally think this is one of the most wonderful greetings I have ever heard of. You dear students can contribute a lot to create such a balance, equilibrium...and by volunteering to take part in this project you have made the first steps, you are now on the right path. Let's raise now our index and middle fingers in a parted way, while our other fingers are clenched. Yes, this represents now "Europe" and "Asia", "Hungary" and "India". And also the letter "V" means "Victory" and it is also widely known as a symbol of peace.

Our meeting was truly a kind of celebration of both, diversity and unity/oneness. As Desmond Tutu put it: "We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity." I highly cherish our partnership and will work hard to nurture it. We look forward to visit your beautiful country!

Namaste!

Janos Blasszauer

Our Experience

This unforgettable experience of cultural exchange made me learn many things. The memories of 'Hungary' will always be cherished in my heart. This was not only a student exchange for me we exchanged many feelings and now I think we have a great bonding. When we reached there, we were given a warm welcome by our host families. They made us feel as if we were at

home. Our hosts in both the places were equally supporting and loving. We learnt many things about their culture, country and their way of living. Everyone there was of a friendly nature. If we sum up these were the most adventurous and fun movements of my life. I also want to thank our teachers Mrs. Geeta Rajan ma'am and Mrs. Ritika ma'am for taking us to such a level.

Sejal Goel(Student)



Press RELEASES

In INDIA

St Mark's, Meera Bagh, students visit Hungary

A 17-MEMBER delegation headed by the principal, Anjali Aggarwal, and the director, Rahul Aggarwal, of St Mark's School, Meera Bagh, along with Ritika Anand, educational supervisor, and Geeta Rajan, global coordinator, visited Hungary from September 20 to October 1 as part of a cultural exchange programme. St Mark's School has been working with two schools in Hungary — Szent Istvan Gimnazium and Batthyany Lajos Gimnazium — on a project 'A Duna és a Gangesz találkozik (Where the Danube meets the Ganges)'. The delegation was hosted by the teachers and students of the two schools during their stay in Budapest as well as Nagykanizsa. The students, Anushka Maggo (XI C), Ginni Madan (XIE), Shivangi Sruti (XB), Rishabh Kohli (XF), Fauray Gulati (XF), Vatsal Sharma (XF), Iya Nagpal (XF), Sejal Goel (XE), Pratiksha Vij (XB), Shreya Shar

(XB), Jahnvi Soth (XC), Khyati Narsing (XG) and Radhika Aggarwal (XA) attended classes with their Hungarian counterparts and a symposium on the significance of the two rivers, Ganges and Danube, and also about the transition in the lifestyles of people of both countries over the years. Apart from sightseeing in Budapest and Nagykanizsa, the students and teachers also visited Vienna (Austria), Venice (Italy) and Bled (Slovenia). The delegation was privileged to be invited for a luncheon meeting with the Ambassador of India in Hungary, Malay Mishra.

GD Salwan launches cleanliness campaign

GD SALWAN Public School has initiated a number of activities over a month for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The school launched the campaign on October 1, with a solemn



Students of St Mark's, Meera Bagh, visited Hungary.

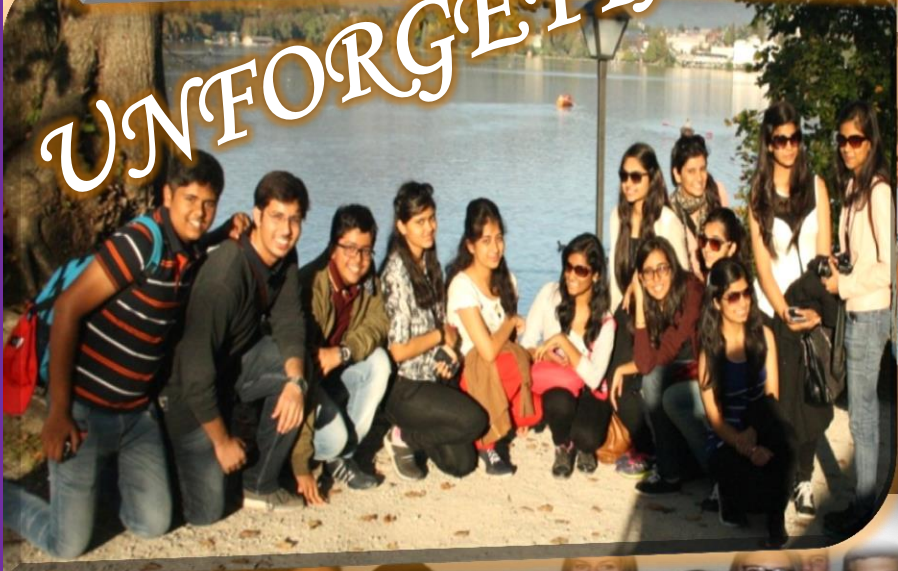
India's most Famous newspapers cover the visit to HUNGARY



In HUNGARY



**Hungarian newspapers covering the
dance performance by the INDIAN
DELEGATION**



Acknowledgements

Our sincere gratitude to our school ST. MARK'S SR. SEC. PUBLIC SCHOOL, MERA BAGH, NEW DELHI, and our teacher, Mrs. Geeta Rajan for their support and guidance. We also acknowledge the role of "ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF Class Net)" in bringing classrooms closer and teach students the real meaning of education.



Sincere Endeavors..

- Jahnvi Seth – X-C
- Radhika Aggarwal – X-A
- Ginni Madan – XI-
- Anushka Maggo – XI-
- Shreya Sharma – X-B
- Sejal Goel – X-E
- Riya Nagpal – X-F
- Shivangi Stuti – X-B
- Pratishtha Vij – X-B
- Paurav Gulati – X-F
- Vatsal Sharma – X-F
- Rishabh Kohli – X-F

Teacher in Charge: Mrs. Geeta Rajan