



Gayatri Gyan Kendra of Long Island

SPECIAL EDITION

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*“You have to grow from the inside out.
None can teach you, none can make
you spiritual. There is no other teacher
but your own soul.”*

- Swami Vivekananda

Welcome to a very special edition of our GGKLI newspaper. This edition acknowledges the wonderful achievements from several of our students ages 4-15.

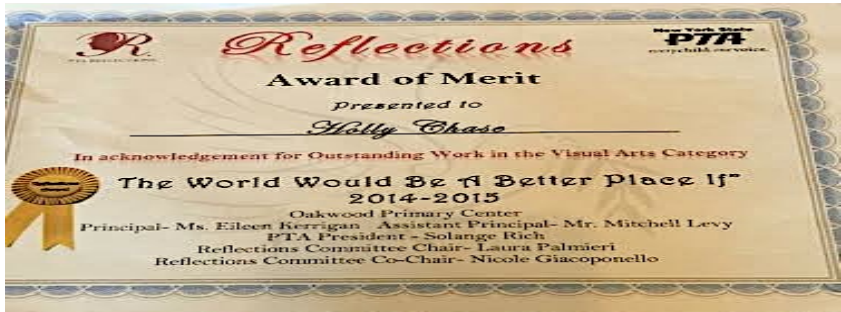
Though not everyone wanted to share their success stories publicly, we know that every student at GGKLI is a superstar.

Congratulations to our champions below for a job well done! We are so proud of all of you and for being apart of our GGKLI family. GGKLI encourages you all to keep preforming your personal best.

-Priyanka



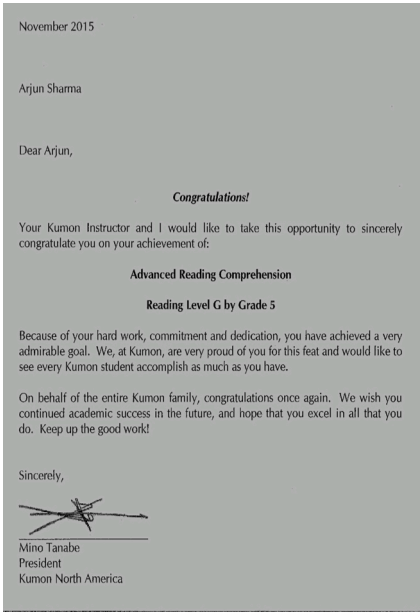
Holly Chase



Holly has been in gymnastics for most of her life. She attends Gold Medal Gymnastics in Huntington. She started gymnastics since she was eighteen months and she loves it. Holly has received a lot of medals and awards since she has been taking part in competitions for over 4 years now. It's her passion and she loves it. Holly also received the award for reflections in 2015. She's very creative and it's expressed in her personality and actions. Keep up the great work!



ARJUN SHARMA



Arjun has been apart of Kumon since 2009 and has achieved an award for Advanced Reading Comprehension. Kumon is a tutoring program to improve and strengthen the minds of our children. Arjun has received his award for getting to Reading Level G by 5th grade. Congratulations Arjun on your achievement!



LAVANYA PURWAR

Lavanya participated in a coloring contest sponsored by Coach Realtors and won it in the kindergarten category. She loves to draw and color just like many other children, but clearly she is very talented! Keep up the great work Lavanya! We are all so proud of you!

Kreena Totala



Kreena is 13 years old and is in 8th grade. She has been a GGKLI student for the past 4 years and is now volunteering as assistant teacher for Vedic Math and Hindi. She is also helping out in Entrepreneurs club.

She started Karate lessons at the age of 8. As this was her first time trying Karate, she was not sure whether she will like it but was ready to try anyway. Thanks to the kind, encouraging Busto's Martial Arts instructors and Kreena's dedication and hard work, she earned her Jr.black belt. Keep it up!

PRIYANSH RAVAL

Prisha Arora



Priyansh Raval, a 10th grader and one of our past GGKLI students, and Prisha Arora, a 5th grader who is a current student at GGKLI, were awarded the 2nd Prize and 3rd Prize, respectively, in an Essay Competition, sponsored by Vegetarian Vision which promotes Vegetarianism. They were awarded the prize in a big Gala event filled with over 400 dignitaries cheering them on. We are so proud of both of your achievements and keep up the great work.

Arpitha Vinod



Ankitha Vinod



On January 31, Arpitha and Ankitha Vinod along with their team got an award; they are part of the FIRST Lego League. They had to complete a project using the EV3 robot for this year's theme, Trash Trek. For the project solution, their team, The Unlimited Thinkers, came up with a Bluetooth weighing scale that connects to an outdoor trash bin that automatically weighs your trash. You pay your trash tax bills based on the weight of trash produced. They presented this to the FLL judges, and presented the robot there also. In the end, their team won the Innovative Solution Award and they also qualified to the Championships Round! Congratulations girls on your brilliant achievement.

SIA PURI



On January 28th 2016, the Board of trustees and members of Indian American Forum organized the Hempstead Town's 13th Annual India Republic Day Celebration at Nathan L.H, Bennett Pavilion, Hempstead Town Hall. Honorable Supervisor Anthony J. Santino and Board members of Indian American Forum hosted Long Island's largest India Republic Day Commemoration. Supervisor Santino was joined with Senior Councilwoman Ms. Dorothy Goosby, council member Bruce Blakeman, Councilwoman Erin king Sweeney and Town Clerk Nasreen Ahmed. Several elected officers, judges and dignitaries were present and enjoyed this unique evening of celebrations. The Town Hall was decorated with Indian flags and patriotic songs were played all over. Traditional and Folk dance performances were presented by students of, Shilpa Jhurani from Arya Dance Academy.

Sia Puri participated in a Kathak performance and was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the contribution to the event. Sia has been learning Bollywood dance since the age of 5 and is now training in the classical form of Kathak. We are so proud of you Sia!

Sia also received a Character Education Award from the school principal of Saltzman East Memorial School. Class Teacher, Mrs.Campbell says: "Sia is a student who exemplifies the character trait of responsibility. She comes to school prepared and ready to learn daily. She is dependable and a hard worker. She is always willing to help another student and cares for all. She completes all her assignments and tasks with extreme effort. She is an enthusiastic worker and learner. Her classmates as well as her teachers appreciate her friendship and efforts. She is a pleasure to be with!"





SIDH PURI

Sidh Puri, first grader, received the Character Education Award from the school, Saltzman East Memorial School, principal. Class Teacher, Mrs. Luquer says: “Sidh is such a leader in our class! Sidh is a very fair and honest student. He is a friend to all and always helps his classmates and teachers. Sidh NEVER gives up! He is always eager to learn more. His hard work has made him a wonderful reader and mathematician. He is smart, kind, helpful and a true role model!”

ARJUN MEHTA

This year has been exciting. I wrote a poem in my middle school English class, *My Dream of Traveling the World*, which was selected in the Library of Poetry 2015 Student Poetry contest. I was so surprised! It published in *Eloquence*, a collection of student poetry from across the U.S.



Another contest I entered was the 2015 SNY Kidcaster Essay Contest sponsored by New York's 529 College Savings Program. My essay talked about cricket and baseball. I was selected among 10 top finalists. This gave me an opportunity to visit the famous SNY studio in Manhattan. I got a chance to audition providing commentaries for a Mets game. It was a great experience for a true Mets fan!

-Arjun Mehta, 12