



German school to educate deserving kids

The German International School (GIS) in Palavakkam which educates kids from 30 different countries is gearing up to reach out to underprivileged students through their 'One on One: Education for Everyone' programme and make a difference

by Anantha K R

Chennai: Even while most schools in the city find themselves cribbing about the reservation of seats for economically weaker sections under the RTE act, an international school in the city has now set aside a chunk of their school seats free of cost for deserving students.

The German International School (GIS) in Palavakkam, does not need to prove itself in inclusiveness, at least as far as nationalities are concerned.

The school which has a strength of just 45 students from about 30 different nationalities including Indian, German, Korean, Malaysian, Mexican and French.

True to this stature, the school finds itself teaching half a dozen languages from India and Europe.

Now in a step forward, the school is to admit students who are exceptionally smart but may not have the resources to afford to pay the

fees they charge.

The initiative termed 'One on One: Education for Everyone' will provide free school education to 10 gifted students in the initial phase so that they could be given quality education. In the long term, the project looks at providing education to one student free, for every student who pays for their education.

"The school looks at the highest international quality of education ensuring that each class does not have more than eight students. This is to ensure that each student is given individual attention that will help him or her to make the best out of their talent. This will be a great opportunity for gifted students to develop their talents," said Thomas A Palushek, Advisor, GIS.

The school authorities say that admitting such students free of cost will have a positive affect on their other students. "For one it will help the student appreciate in-



For better interactive and peer-based learning, the school follows a unique concept of 'inter-year' classes

HOW TO ENROLL

Parents interested in sending their kids to the German International School, under the 'One on One: Education for All Scheme' programme may contact the German International School, 4/391 Ram Garden, Anna Salai, Palavakkam, Chennai 600 041. Phone: +91 44 24512654, Fax: +91 44 22239589 or email at wisecob@gischool.com, www.gischool.com. The seats available are from the primary and secondary classes. The parents need to fill in an application form in which they will have to explain the child's special and his future goals. The net annual income of the family will also have to be specified.

dian culture better. Here, though there are a number of Indian students, many are from abroad and hence are not so attuned to the culture. Being an international school, this exposure to culture will help them. Secondly, interaction with the smart kids will help everyone to learn better," he says.

In fact, one of the main principles of the school is that learning is interactive and peer-based. In order to facilitate this, the school has introduced a concept called 'inter-year classes'.

Under this, students of three different grades and age groups sit together in the same class.

While this might seem to be a nightmare for educational planners in the country, with the State and central governments looking at shutting down schools where students from multiple classes are forced to sit together and take classes — teachers at the school feel differently.

"The fact is that even with-

in the same class, each student falls under various levels. But it does not make sense to separate the students. In the case of an inter-year's classroom, we find that students learn to help each other better. While the weaker students will get the

benefit of a student who is a faster learner, the fast learner will in turn be able to understand and get his concepts clarified in the process," says Anita Karvinskop, teacher at the school.

But this does not come at zero cost, for it would mean advanced training for the teachers to fit themselves to the mode of teaching, a separate customized question paper for students based on their levels of learning and careful preparation before such class.

As part of this agenda the school also admits students at the differently-abled category and teachers are trained in handling such students.