



**THE BISHOP'S CO-ED.SCHOOL, KALYANINAGAR**

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

**ACADEMIC YEAR: 2012-2013**

SENIOR/JUNIOR SCHOOL	:	SENIOR SCHOOL
ACTIVITY/COMPETITION	:	THE HDFC LIFE SPELLING BEE-India Spells
DATE	:	19 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> APRIL---2012..
DAY	:	
VENUE	:	MUMBAI
TIME/PERIOD	:	9.AM. TO 4 PM
INTER-SCHOOL/INTER-HOUSE/INTER-CLASS/GROUP/ INDIVIDUAL	:	INDIVIDUAL.
ORGANIZED BY	:	HDFC LIFE.
(For inter-school competitions and Outside school activities)	:	
CLASS/CLASSES INVOLVED	:	CLASS 9
NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS	:	JOANNA SAM.

**A BRIEF REPORT.**

**NATIONAL SPELLING BEE**

The HDFC Life Spell Bee – India Spells 2012, powered by The Times of India and in association with Horlicks, is considered one of India's most prestigious inter-school competitions in the space of academics. This competition engages students from classes 5 to 9 all over the country by testing their mettle in English spellings. The search begins within the classroom as a dictation test. From here, the selected students represent their schools in a city level competition. The winner from each city receives the opportunity to participate in the National Finals. This year, in the fourth edition of India Spells 2012, students were selected from 32 cities across the country. In each city finale, candidates battled for the top spot. After a written test and an exciting spelling contest, I received the opportunity to represent Pune in the National Finals.

After weeks of preparation, I was informed that the event was to be held from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of April in Mumbai. My father and I had a wonderful stay at Hotel Suba International. All expenses towards our meals, travel and accommodation were borne by the organizers.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April, we were part of a press conference. Representatives from each of our main sponsors explained to us how this event was first conducted and how it has grown. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, the students were taken out for an exciting visit to the planetarium. We were given a chance to interact with each other and share our experiences. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April we began the competition, which was to be aired on television later.

Although the competition was very intense, it was quite interesting to watch how the procedures of shooting are carried out. There were innumerable crew members and camera men all around us. The brilliant set, the cameras, the lighting – it was all extremely enjoyable. We also got a chance to personally interact with the renowned quizmaster, Derek O'Brien. My episode was the first one to be shot, and I opened the contest by spelling the first word. I performed well, but fell short of points in the 'Jumbled Words' round and was eliminated. It was a tough competition as my fellow-spellers were extremely talented and focused. Eventually, it all boiled down to the 4 finalists from Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata and Surat. It was fun sitting in the audience and cheering them on. Shooting all day was tiring, but our quizmaster, Derek, kept our spirits high with his guidance and sense of humour. By the end of it, Samvida Venkatesh from Bengaluru was declared the winner. Her performance was commendable, as she remained calm and collected throughout and had spelt all her spellings perfectly. The four finalists received cash prizes and Samvida was given the opportunity to go on an all-expense-paid trip to the

United States of America to witness the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the most prestigious spelling event in the world.

India Spells 2012 has certainly been the most exciting competition I have ever participated in. It has given me fantastic exposure. I received the opportunity to meet personalities like **Derek O'Brien, Darsheel Safary and Meiyang Chang**. And most importantly, I can now say I have friends all over the country. It was amazing talking to each of the participants and getting to know more about them, their cities and schools. We have many memories together – be it discussing our interests over group meals, joking around with the organizers, getting locked up in the vanity van or simply testing each other's spellings. We exchanged contacts and have promised to keep in touch. This event has also given me a lot of confidence. I have learnt how to deal with and thrive under pressure. I have understood the importance of efficient learning, and how to stay calm when faced with challenges. This was a very enriching and educative experience. It has been a privilege to represent my school and city in this event.

It was truly an enriching experience for all students. We sincerely thank our C.E.O Mr Frank Freese, our Headmaster Mr F. Bunyan and all other staff members for providing us with such a wonderful platform to express ourselves.

<b>Report filed By:</b>	<b>Joanna Sam (9 E)</b>
<b>TEACHER(S) INCHARGE</b>	Mrs S. Guha.

