

Hello from South Africa

Good Morning Pratibha

We hope you are all well. March has flown by and I cannot believe that it has already been a month since Gabriella left India. She is still talking about her fabulous experiences in India to friends and family as they all want to know about it - it is still so fresh in our memories. Please send our greetings to all The Sanskaar Valley School staff. Gabriella has been keeping in touch (Face book) with all her friends there. She took a few weeks to settle back home as she was missing her host family - especially her sister, Ajunee. We felt truly blessed to have had a wonderful and warm family to look after our daughter.

Enjoy your week and all the best from us.

Kindest Regards

Carla

Exchange Programme

A South African Girl At TSVS: My Extraordinary Exchange I was lucky enough to come to The Sanskaar Valley School on exchange from January to February 2015. I'd never been to India, so I didn't really know what to expect, but as soon as I landed at Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal, and was greeted by my host sister, Ajunee, I had a good feeling about the experiences to come.

For the first few days of my exchange, I toured Bhopal. I saw the lakes, the people, and the culture. I attended the graduation and farewell ceremonies for the seniors, where I got to see lots of traditional dancing and performances.

A week after my arrival, we set off for Goa on a school trip – and we went by train! I had not heard incredibly good things about “Indian trains”, but everyone reassured me that everything would be fine – and it was! On the train trip to Goa, I spent 31 hours getting to know Class XII in its entirety. In Goa, we went sightseeing – the Naval and Aviation Museum, the Oldest Church in Asia and the Aguada Fortress, to name a few. And we ended the days off with a meal at a beach shack café of our choice. I particularly enjoyed these meals at the shacks – with good friends and good food. There was always laughter, a cheerful atmosphere, and, of course with Class XII, there was never an absence of loud music and singing. I also attended a wedding – where I had great fun being dressed up and attending the various functions. I loved the colours and styles of everyone's outfits, the decorations all over, and the functions themselves. The Sanskaar Valley School in itself is an amazing place: the campus is beautiful and everyone always seems happy. I attended classes here (even Hindi classes) and loved every moment of it. The teachers and students were always so welcoming. The Indian food was fantastic too! I was not expecting such variety – and everything was so delicious (even though the chilies and spices had to be minimized for my sake). I especially enjoyed all the types of Indian breads I tried – especially naan. And with my host sister, I watched the quintessential Bollywood movie: *Khabe Khushi Kabhie Ghum* (with English subtitles, obviously) and thusly spent the rest of my trip mimicking Kareena Kapoor with Ajunee. And I learnt partial lyrics to at least five Hindi songs, as well, which I will walk around singing for the rest of my life. I was blessed with a phenomenal host family and friends, and I truly made memories that span the globe and last a lifetime. I fell in love with this country and will definitely be returning to India as soon as I can, but until then I will be telling my stories from my exchange to everyone I meet

– **Gabriella Fedetto, St Stithians Girls' College, South Africa**