

Kansas student exchange information boxes with Bangladeshi schools

Star Campus Desk

WHAT seemed like an impossible dream is now a reality for some of the schools taking part in the GCEP (Global Connections and Exchange Program) activities in Bangladesh. Several GCEP school such as Rani Bilashmoni Govt. Boys High School, Uttar Badda Alia Madrasa and Joydepur Girls High school in Gazipur have bridged the international divide to engage in a unique cross cultural collaboration with John Marshall Middle School (JMMS) in Wichita Kansas known as the - THE STUDENT BOX EXCHANGE PROJECT.

This exchange was part of the latest GCE online collaborative project aimed to exchange information about a country and its culture. Both the participating schools in Bangladesh and the USA came to know each other through the Internet and exchanged numerous emails to plan and implement the Student Box Information project.

A bunch of anxious and eager 7th grade Bangladeshi boys and girls had opened the first box sent by the students of the JMMS in Kansas. The excitement and joy at receiving gifts from abroad was very much evident from their giggles and smiles as they unwrapped the gifts inside the box one after another. The gifts included wide variety of goodies. The JMMS students had left little notes on various items to ensure that the Bangladeshi students would know the proper use of each gift. Furthermore each of the JMMS students wrote a letter to invite the students of Bangladesh to visit their school and develop friendship.

The activity did not only lead the students to explore their own history and culture, but enabled them to develop correspondence skills and broaden their international knowledge while being immersed in a totally engaging activity. The exchange box also included several photographs of the sender along with many small gifts/tokens representing life in Kansas and its community. In this way JMMS teachers and Bangladeshi teachers also interacted side by side with students.

Meanwhile the students of Rani Bilashmoni Govt. Boys High School and Joydepur Girls School in Gazipur have also sent a similar "Gift Box" to the students of JMMS. Students have brought cultural tokens/gifts from home. RI SOL helped students to courier the box to schools in USA The box sent by the Bangladeshi students was received by the JMMS School in Texas just before the Thanksgiving Day.