



GYEL NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 December 2025

WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER 2025 GYEL NEWSLETTER!

[Read more about our program](#)

Our goal is to keep you updated on our program sessions, guest speakers, and showcase our students' global impact projects related to the UN's SDGs. We will also share helpful tips and insights to make your college application stand out, as recommended by some of the industry's most trusted professionals.

[Subscribe here to receive
further GYEL newsletters](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR OF PROGRAMS

As we approach the Holiday Season and wrap up the final two weeks of our Fall Term 2025, I'm filled with optimism about the future. Our students continue to impress me with their emotional intelligence and their dedication to building a sustainable world.

Through their work in HSP1, HSP2, and AI Horizons courses, especially their capstone projects, I see inspiring ideas and solutions taking shape. I believe every student is gaining the confidence and tools to make a real difference, both in their communities today and on a larger scale tomorrow. It's my hope that GYEL remains a place that educates, encourages, and empowers the leaders our world needs.

Looking ahead to 2026, our Spring Term enrollment is growing steadily. We'll continue to bring in inspiring guest speakers from around the globe to enrich our learning experience. With hope comes gratitude. I want to sincerely thank our dedicated team of instructors and staff, whom bring exceptional expertise and passion to our programs. Their commitment creates the supportive, high-

quality learning environment that helps our students thrive. I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead this program and to introduce new initiatives that support our mission. Most of all, I'm thankful to you for trusting us to be part of your child's leadership journey.

As we enter this Holiday Season, let's stay hopeful for a brighter future and thankful for the opportunities we have today.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

Sincerely,
Ms. Hannah Kidner, Lead Instructor of Programs

FALL TERM 2025 UPDATES

- As of the publication of this Newsletter, we are entering the final quarter of the Fall Term 2025.
- Our High School Part 1 (HSP1) and High School Part 2 (HSP2) courses will be covering the final 2 Topic Units, Topic 11 and Topic 12, and preparing students for their Final Capstone-type project for course completion.
- Our Alumni from HSP2 continue to inspire us by providing Mentorship to our current HSP2 students with their final projects during the Instructors' Office Hours.
- Our current HSP2 students are providing Mentorship to our HSP1 students for their final project during the Instructors' Office Hours.
- Our AI Horizons course will be finalizing its inaugural term with Topic 9 and Topic 10 instruction.
- We are very grateful to our two (2) Guest Speakers for the Fall Term 2025: Ms. Lisa Nichols, who presented an inspiring talk for our students titled "Fuel your Fire", and Mr. Jeffrey Hayzlett, for his insights on leading with confidence, driving change, and creating lasting impact in today's business landscape. Looking forward to additional inspirational guests in Spring 2026.
- We are launching a NEW Introduction to Global Leadership course for February 2026. This Intro course will be a very basic course for students exploring whether GYEL HS Program courses are the right fit for them. Tell your friends in grades 6th-12th to check our website for more information.



Find out more about our Intro to Global Leadership course

I am Ananya Singh, an educator and environmentalist. In my role as a GYEL Program Instructor and Guest Lecture Series Coordinator, I design and facilitate learning experiences that foster inclusion, innovation, and implementation.

With a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Policy from National Law University, and a Bachelor in Visual Communication from Srishti Manipal Institute, I bring a unique blend of interdisciplinary expertise and systems thinking to my work.

Throughout the past decade, I have contributed to several national and international organizations, including the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Yale Tropical Resources Institute (TRI), and the Yale Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI).

As a Teaching Fellow at the Yale School of the Environment, I mentored over 150 students in sustainable development, environmental leadership, and data visualization, nurturing their capacity to make a meaningful impact within their local and global communities.

What inspires me most is the opportunity to guide GYEL students as they discover their passion, perspective, and potential to create positive change in the world. The purpose I find in supporting these young leaders is rooted in my belief that empathy, resilience, and collective action are key levers for building a sustainable and just future.

INSTRUCTOR INSIGHTS



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIP



Learn more

"Try YOUR Best!"

You'll be receiving a lot of tips and advice from many different sources. To keep it all organized and effective, you have to filter it through your own priorities and understanding of what's best for your situation. If things aren't clear to you, they won't be clear to the admissions officer as well.

Over-using AI, simply following others' opinions, and fast, non-reflective writing are examples of doing the opposite of trying your best! This is your life, and it's worth your best effort!

Jason Wong
Founder of Endurable Education

GYEL SPRING 2026

Enrollment Open for Spring until December 31st
Generous Financial Assistance Available (see website for more info)
Spring Term set to begin January 24th and 25th

[Apply today](#)

[Hear from our students](#)

SMART READS FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Explore articles that empower students and families to make informed choices about their academic and leadership journey.



5 EXTRACURRICULARS THAT CAN SET YOU UP FOR IVY LEAGUE SUCCESS

Strong **extracurricular activities** don't just impress admissions officers; they build skills, confidence, and opportunities, whether your path leads to the Ivy League or elsewhere.

When it comes to Ivy League admissions, straight A's and stellar test scores are only part of the story. What often separates the "maybe" pile from the "admit" list is a student's extracurricular profile. Admissions officers want to see how students utilize their time outside the classroom to pursue their interests, make a positive impact, and demonstrate initiative.

[Read More](#)

Student Spotlight

From Passion to Purpose – Aneesh Krishna's Journey

This month, we're proud to feature **Aneesh Krishna**, a GYEL high school senior from California and creator of SkillEd, a project dedicated to supporting teachers worldwide. Aneesh's dedication to improving education exemplifies the GYEL mission in action.

ANEESH'S SOCIAL IMPACT JOURNEY

- Developed SkillEd, a platform designed to reduce teacher workload, enhance knowledge, and provide a global support network through online microcredentials, lesson plan aid, and collaborative tools.
- Inspired by his own experiences learning piano, taekwondo, and other skills, Aneesh recognized the critical value of the teacher-student bond and sought to strengthen it on a global scale.
- Leveraged problem-solving frameworks learned at GYEL to implement systematic solutions that address some of the most pressing challenges facing educators worldwide.
- Extended his impact beyond SkillEd by founding school clubs focused on music and financial literacy, and partnering with Project Empower to develop software helping underprivileged communities access scholarships and learning opportunities.
- Created a detailed plan for SkillEd's growth, including website development, launch strategies, and funding partnerships with philanthropic organizations.



Through GYEL, Aneesh has translated his passions for learning and teaching into real-world educational change. His work with SkillEd demonstrates how one student's initiative, vision, and compassion can empower educators and transform learning globally.

Aneesh's journey reflects the heart of GYEL: young leaders who think globally, act compassionately, and lead with purpose.

The screenshot shows the SkillEd platform interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'SkillEd' logo, 'Dashboard', 'My Courses', 'Lesson Plans', 'Community', and a user profile for 'Sarah Johnson'. A 'Online' status indicator and a 'Sarah Johnson' profile picture are also present. The main content area includes a 'Welcome back, Sarah!' message with a 'Continue Learning' button, a 'Current Micro-Credential' section showing a progress bar at 60% complete for 'Differentiated Instruction Strategies', a 'Lesson Plan Creator' section listing 'Fractions Introduction - Grade 4' and 'Revolutionary War Timeline - Grade 5', and an 'AI Teaching Assistant' feature where an AI named 'AI Teaching Assistant' responds to a user's query about creating an engaging math lesson for 4th graders on fractions.

SkillEd

SkillEd empowers teachers worldwide with AI-driven training, lesson planning, and a global support network, enabling them to deliver high-quality, equitable education to all students even in underserved regions.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT?

We love celebrating the incredible impact our GYEL students are making around the world. If you'd like to share your journey, achievements, or community project, send us your details at inquiry@un.gyel.org and you could be our next feature!

**GLOBAL YOUTH EXCELLENCE
&
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**



Student Spotlight

From Advocacy to Innovation – Shradha Goel's Journey



This month, we're honored to highlight **Shradha Goel**, a graduate of our High School Program Parts 1 and 2. Driven by a long-standing commitment to the UN SDGs, especially SDG 5: Gender Equality, Shradha exemplifies the spirit of a young leader using innovation to drive social change.

SHRADHA'S SOCIAL IMPACT JOURNEY

- Discovered a passion for gender equality in 6th grade and found in GYEL a way to combine service, technology, and global justice.
- Earned her Girl Scouts Bronze Award by helping at a homeless shelter
- Organized her school's Culture Night, promoting diversity and inclusion.
- Created a Part 2 prospectus and founded UnbiasHR, an initiative using AI to detect and reduce gender bias in recruitment, promotion, and compensation.
- Advocates for ethical, accountable AI, working to shift perceptions at school and help peers understand its risks and potential for positive change.
- Plans to build a machine-learning interface that flags gender bias in hiring content and provides actionable recommendations.
- Aims to develop UnbiasHR into a functional prototype that generates transparency reports and supports more equitable workplaces.



Through GYEL, Shradha has deepened her understanding of how technology, ethics, and social justice intersect. Her work with UnbiasHR reflects how one student's vision and determination can pave the way for more fair, inclusive, and accountable systems. Shradha's journey reflects the heart of GYEL—young leaders who think globally, act compassionately, and lead with purpose.

THE PROBLEM: GENDER BIAS IN AI HIRING SYSTEMS



UNESCO
Research

Amazon
Case Study

UN News
Statistic

"...biases emerge in the text generated by LLMs, through **gendered word associations**, **positive** or **negative** regard for gendered subjects, or diversity in text generated by gender and **culture**". (UNESCO)

An example of gender bias in hiring was seen in Amazon's project to automate hiring at their company. However, the use of this product was stopped a year later when people found out that the tool discriminated against women applying for technical jobs.

"At the current rate, it will take 257 years to close the gender pay gap". - UN News



UNBIASHR

UnbiasHR uses ethical AI to detect and reduce gender bias in hiring and promotions, helping organizations build fair, inclusive, and equitable workplaces.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT?

We love celebrating the incredible impact our GYEL students are making around the world.

If you'd like to share your journey, achievements, or community project, send us your details at inquiry@un.gyel.org and you could be our next feature!

