

Annual Report (2023-'24)

Good morning. My staff and I welcome you all on this special day to witness what the children have put together for us. The excitement and determination during rehearsals was palpable-you could feel it in the air.

We gather today grateful for the peace and prosperity we enjoy everyday. There are parts of the world steeped in war, hunger, depression and a loss of hope. We are fortunate that our generation, so far, has not seen that level of misery. Many before us were not this lucky.

Our country looks at new horizons. Some say we are at the dawn of a new era. This is true for the field of education as well. There is a New Education Policy (NEP). The syllabus is now the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). We have new jargon to learn and implement. Learning outcomes have been replaced by competency and curricular goals. Educators have to frame questions that test the competency of each student and not what they learnt by rote with the class. The teacher and learner must now change their outlook as the goals are individual-based and not class-based. You would ask- 'Isn't school about reading, writing and arithmetic'? It isn't. Anybody can teach how to read and write. A good school teaches you how to be educated, resourceful, communicate well and visualize something new for society. It has to be beyond the teaching of numbers and alphabets. It has to instil an attitude and love for life long learning, not only in the students but also its teachers. A new NCF and an NEP means everybody has to be educated and trained to meet new standards and goals.

Students cannot be kept at arm's length while the teacher plays God or the 'sage on the stage'. Teachers are now guides on the side and students are an integral part of the teaching learning process through engagement and hands-on involvement in every subject and topic. The objective is to test the competency of each child.

I am proud to say that this year we complete 20 years of being in this building and site. As you have seen in the presentation before, it has been a long and rewarding labour of love. Each year has brought with it exciting challenges. We

have built great relations with the families and people that we have been fortunate to work with. We have seen nothing but growth although there are always setbacks due to forces beyond one's control. We have always persevered and come out ahead of each obstacle. I thank my wonderful team for being supportive, pushing and understanding what the needs of the institution have always been. A big hand for my dear staff and educators for completing 20 successful years.

Along the way I would hear great praise for the work we did. I would come back to my office many times and wonder how we could measure our success. How would my students and teachers fare vis-a-vis a school in Mumbai or Delhi or randomly Nagpur? I got my answer with the 100% success result that our first batch of class X got in the CBSE examination last year. Our lowest score was 76.2% and our highest was 97.8%. Two students scored 100% in Social Studies. It is indeed a moment of pride for all of us.

It is not only in academics that our children excel. Special recognition and applause must be given to Ms. Khushi Puri, class VIII for the continuous effort she puts in at the National and State levels for achieving great success in swimming championships. This slide is for this year alone and it isn't over yet. A shout out to Pratham Sharma of class V for his untiring performances and laurels in Taekwondo and Chess. We are very proud of our girls who are independent, strong and smart young ladies at all ages. Special mention goes to Kritika of class IX and Nancy Arya of class X for excelling in the Girls Football Junior National Meet.

Education today is not about creating regiments for the British Empire or buying for clerical jobs in offices. It is about building a new India, which involves the confidence to think, create and implement one's own ideas. This age is about start-ups and finding fulfillment in our work by following our dreams. It is about understanding how our world works and then finding the void that needs work to make the whole thrive. Much lies in the hands of this next generation to carry the country forward into the next millennium as one of the top nations of the world in most fields. A lot of the world looks to us and our ancient culture for answers to the world's problems - feeding more people as population grows,

dealing with the scarcity of water, a cure for cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Our world is changing faster than it ever has. There will be more technological advancement in the next five years than there has been in the last 20. Our students have to be smart and efficient enough to keep up with the change. I hear the younger generation contemplating marriage or not having children because they don't want to bring them into a crazy, negative world. Our answer - The world is what you make it. Your life is what you make it. Most of the world depends on your understanding of it. No one chooses to be here and no one chooses when to go. In no other time in history has it been more important for students to find what it is they excel at and what they want to devote their lives to doing. We-you-I are catalysts the guides. We can only provide the scaffolding. Our children have to stand on their own structure. That structure must be sound, resilient and open to change. It must succeed with other structures around it.

I know you are eager to watch your children perform in the rest of the show. I thank you again for taking out your valuable time to encourage your wards and their educators to showcase the infinite talent that prevails in our school.