



April 1, 2023

Dear Parents,

Greetings for a wonderful New Year!

## **NOW IT IS YOUR TIME! SEIZE THE MOMENT!**

We have begun our new academic year 2023-24. The past year has been a mixed bag of blessings, because we had the school back on its feet for our children, with the fun of learning, friends and all the joys that good schooling offers. On the other hand, we have seen how badly several students have slipped down in their studies, primarily because of the lost routine of attending classes everyday, completing the home tasks and above all, without the urge to do something better each day.

For each good Parent and for each good School, education must be a serious preoccupation, and if any one of them, be it the Parent or the School falls short of what must be done, we cause irreparable damage to the future of our kids. This is almost 'cliché' because we have heard it so often in the past, which is partly true, because during each decade there is a variation about what the economy and the world of work demand of its people, the work force. But that is changing faster than we know. The newness of 'technology' is becoming shorter by the day, and introduction and adoption of new technologies is progressively more accelerated. As a result technologies have become transient, i.e. will stay on the top only for a short time and will be replaced by better ones, faster than we can imagine. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a potent tool for the development of new technologies and A.I. by itself has become super powerful.**

The world of work, at the higher level of skills will change dramatically and only those who are qualified and geared to work in those technology environments will be able to secure those jobs that today are available to many more and sadly our education system is designed to feed the economy of today not of tomorrow. **Tomorrow's world of work, will be ruled not by those who 'know' or 'have skills' but by those who have the ability to 'know' and 'acquire skills'. The focus will shift from actual to the potential of the worker.**

**Therefore our primary and most important effort must be to adopt our teaching and learning for the world of tomorrow. Although I have been talking of 'critical thinking' as the most important requirement in education for a long time, today it is the only indispensable element in teaching and learning. Every single aspect of teaching and learning must be focused on critical thinking.**

We want to think that **critical thinking** is complex, difficult to learn, etc. **But the simpler understanding of 'critical thinking' is the practice of asking questions about what we think we know, and find their answers, not from the book or the teachers, but through a 'questioning process in our mind' which causes 'cognition', i.e. knowledge.** You can also learn to be a critical thinker by reading about a scientific or historical fact in your book, and imagine how it must have happened, and understand it. That too is the beginning of critical thinking. This 'knowledge' (cognition) is different from that which enables us to answer our exams, by recalling what the teacher has taught or what we have read from our books. There is also knowledge that we acquire by an unconscious mind (mechanical) effort, such as the tables ( $2 \times 2 = 4$ ) or the names of colours, places, persons, etc.

**The 'cognition' (that comes from critical thinking) creates and establishes thinking patterns/paths or processes that will help us learn everything faster and deeper. And once you learn something**

**through that process you learn it for life, and you will be able to use it at all times, in all subjects and situations.** Therefore, Teachers, Parents and Students will have lots to do, to teach and learn in this manner. Once we have tasted that, we will never want to come back to the practice of 'learning' ( as we do it today, by trying to remember), because such learning does not depend on memory, but becomes part of our thinking ability, becomes part of our life and does not stay restricted to one subject. It is a skill that allows us to create further skills, attitudes and abilities across subjects. So everyone has to learn everyday, Parents, Teachers and Students; this is possible by introducing a new way of learning, one, where the entire family learns, by thinking, discussing, collaborating and in the process acquiring new 'cognition' and 'new abilities'.

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS to look seriously at how to improve our teaching and learning, through a sustained, persistent, collaborative, year long exercise where everyone becomes a winner, even those who have not gone to school, because school will happen at home!**

We are introducing SHINE OLYMPIAD which is an effort to initiate students into the art and the practice of regular, consistent and collaborative learning, not aimed at passing an exam, but aimed at creating a habit of learning, not for students alone but for the entire family. You may even call it a new style of 'Learning Antakshri' which we are so fond of. This Olympiad is a tool of bringing back learning through questioning and imaging in the life of the students and the family. Thus the 'Family that learns together, Grows together', and that is the best thing that can happen to a family. The program has also been vetted by the IIT Delhi for its educational content.

**Every student from Grades 1 to 10 will be given a chance to learn two subjects on line, where students will be able to give tests, check the speed of response, all through a 'personal dashboard for each child'. So the family can gather together in front of a Smart TV of a laptop, and just have fun learning through mutual help and collaboration. Each student will choose a subject of his or her choice, but Maths is compulsory for all. This can be done at home, in the bus and in the class with the teacher creating a lively environment for all!**

**The School is part of this robust effort and although the cost per subject is Rs 300.00 per year, the student will be offered two subjects but will be billed only Rs. 300.00, instead of Rs. 600.00** We will bill this to every student in the annual fee. Students may opt for additional students by paying further online, but the School will not be a part of it.

**Dear Parents,** you seldom have an opportunity to become a direct part of structured learning after being out of school for several years. Here you have that opportunity, and therefore seize it as your moment, to change the life of your child by helping him or her to become a great learner, one who will be able to secure his or her future. May be it is time to say goodbye to tuitions too!

Wishing you loads of Happy Learning together with your child. Together you can truly become an awesome combination!

**From all of us in School, Principal, Staff and Teachers, wishing you an exciting, purposeful and lasting learning experience. God bless you!**

**(FR. J. A. CARVALHO)  
DIRECTOR**

